Bahá'í Companion to the Bible.

When I was eleven or twelve years old I had a dream, so terrifying, that I was afraid to go back to sleep for three nights in a row: What I had dreamt about was the fulfillment of the book of Revelations in the Christian Holy Bible literally; the moon turning to blood, terrifying beasts, mass panic etc... What I didn't expect out of this dream though was that after the end of all these catastrophic terrible events, instead of the world physically coming to an end, like I was raised to believe, I was still alive surrounded by thousands and thousands of people who, oddly enough, were looking to me for answers; and what was even stranger, then all this, is what I had to say to them. I told them that it was all over with now and that we had to go on with our lives and live out the life God had set for us, for the next thousand years, before the next events would occur.

To me this was a strange event, that I had dreamt about, because, the way I was brought up, in the church, I was raised to believe that when it was over it was all over accept for hell or heaven; I didn't understand why the world went on and we apparently had to go on and learn from our mistakes.

Several years later when I was seventeen I was introduced to the Bahá'í Faith and what I discovered was that the Revelations of Saint John had in fact already occurred symbolically and that I was one of the few people among the thousands that actually knew the truth about it. This book is an attempt, on my part, to give answers to the people of the world who asked the questions why are things the way they are? It is my hope that through the answers to topics found within this book, that some people will find their way in this world and be able to help others find their way in this life, through the unsealed words of God, and find solace in their lives.

The Baha'i companion for the bible is not set up like a regular book broken down into chapters; this book is written in topics, so if the reader has a particular topic he or she wants to look up, that person can just search alphabetically, more or less, in table of contents, for the topic of interest. What I have tried to do is try to show that the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith are also taught in the writings of the

bible and the writings of the bible are taught in the Bahá'í writings, if we look for them.

When a person looks up a topic in this book, say the oneness of God, I have recorded what the bible has to say about the topic, and I have also shown what the Bahá'í Writings has to say about the topic, thereby demonstrating that the teachings of the bible and the Bahá'í Faith come to us from the one same God and that Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith are all facets of the same religion. I have taken and enclosed the quotations from the bible and the Bahá'í Faith in quotation marks, thereby separating out my comments from the Holy Writings of God, to make the understanding of this work easier for the reader to separate my words from the words of the holy prophets. You will also find that the places where the quotations are taken from are indicated at the beginning or ending of each quotation, to make it easier on the seeker or researcher to verify the truth of my quotations and the legitimacy of my claims and arguments.

I have also taken some of the biblical topics that some Christians use to separate Christianity from the other religions and shown, through the writings of the bible and the Bahá'í Faith, that the teachings in the Bahá'í Faith and the teachings found in the bible are, in reality, one and the same. For example, topics like the trinity, the rapture, the story of Adam and Eve, get to God only through Christ etc... these and more topics like them are covered in this work. I have also shown that there are many symbols used in the bible, which even the bible indicates these things should not be taken literally: 1 Corinthians 2:7 "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:" 2:10 "God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 2:11 "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." 2 Peter 120 "No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Matthew 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time

they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart."

This book is, as I stated earlier, an attempt on my part to help open people's eyes to what is going on in the world around them and help them understand what God is trying to get across to us, so we may learn to get along with one another, and unity find its way into our lives.

Bahá'í companion for the bible.

(A book for teaching and sharing God's faith.)

Adam was not the first created man.

1. <u>Adam was not the first created man:</u> In the Bahá'í writings Adam, though still thought of as the father of mankind, is not believed to be the first man created by God, but a messenger from God sent to bring His message to mankind and usher in the prophetic cycle of the Adamic era. <u>Bahá'í Faith</u>: "The Adamic Cycle inaugurated 6000 years ago by the Manifestation of God called Adam is only one of the many bygone cycles," (Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 500)

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "And now regarding thy question, 'How is it that no records are to be found concerning the Prophets that have preceded Adam, the Father of Mankind, or of the kings that lived in the days of those Prophets?' Know thou that the absence of any reference to them is no proof that they did not actually exist. That no records concerning them are now available, should be attributed to their extreme remoteness, as well as to the vast changes which the earth hath undergone since their time."

"Moreover such forms and modes of writing as are now current amongst men were unknown to the generations that were before Adam. There was even a time when men were wholly ignorant of the

art of writing, and had adopted a system entirely different from the one which they now use."

(Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 172)

In chapter 1 of the book of Genesis God created man in his own image and speaks of them plural, not the singular form. The creation of Adam is not talked about until the 2nd chapter of Genesis: ✡ Judaism: Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after Our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." Genesis 1:27 "And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." Genesis 1:28 "And God blessed them: and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

It states in Genesis 1:26 when God creates man in His own image that man should have dominion over the fish and animals, ✡ Judaism: Genesis 1:26 "and let them have dominion." The key words here that God states is "let them," (plural) "have dominion over," not just one man created here, but them, more than one. This is later followed in Genesis 1:27 "created He him; male and female created He them," and Genesis 1:28 "And God blessed them:" and "God said unto them," the key word here, again, is them. God repeatedly uses the plural term when He talks about the creation of mankind not the singular.

It is not until the 2nd chapter of Genesis that God breaths life into Adam and causes Eve to come from his side that we learn about Adam. It is also in the 2nd chapter of Genesis that we learn that Adam is already cognizant of the existence of other humans on the earth; for Adam states a man shall leave his father and mother to be with his wife, which means that Adam is already cognizant of the existence of fathers and mothers even though Adam and Eve haven't, as of yet, had any children, which argues the point that there are already other people on the earth created from the first chapter of Genesis: Genesis 2:23 "And the man said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Genesis 2:24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Which, again, strongly argues the point that Adam knows about fathers and mothers because he has already had experiences with parents and is aware of the concept?

Also, when Adam and Eve eat of the forbidden fruit and discover they are naked God asks them who told them they are naked? ✡ Judaism: Genesis 3:11 "And He (God) said, Who told thee that thou wast naked?" If there was no one else on the world but Adam and Eve who was God referring to when He ask them that question? Another thing to think about, when Cain killed his brother Abel Cain told God that if he was left to wonder the earth people would find him and slay him: Genesis 4:14 "Behold, Thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the ground; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer in the earth; and it will come to pass, that whosoever findeth me will slay me." And God's response to this statement was to place a sign on Cain so that anyone seeing him would know that vengeance would be taken out on anyone that harmed Cain: Genesis 4:15 "And Jehovah said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And Jehovah appointed a sign for Cain, lest any finding him should smite him." So, here again, we find more references to there being other people on the earth besides Adam and Eve and their two sons, both out of the mouth of Cain and that of God, as He answers Cain's concerns. We also know that these other people can't be other children of Adam and Eve because there are no other children as yet born to Adam and Eve; the bible tell us this in Genesis 4:25 and Genesis 5:3 and 5:4: Genesis 4:25 "And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth (Seth). For, [said she], God hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel; for Cain slew him."

Genesis 5:3 "And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years, and begat [a son] in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:"

Genesis 5:4 "and the days of Adam after he begat Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters." After the birth of Adams' third son Seth, and, as I said, we know Seth is the third son because Eve tells us that Seth was given to her to replace Abel who Cain had killed. The bible tells us that Adam begets other sons and daughters, but up until this point there is supposedly only Adam and

Eve and their third son Seth. And, if this is not conclusive enough proof that there are other humans on the earth besides Adam's family, when Cain left and went out of the presents of God he went to the land of Nod where he knew a wife from that land who bore him a son: Genesis 4:16 "And Cain went out from the presence of Jehovah, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden." Genesis 4:17 "And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch." Here the bible clearly states that there was at least another woman on the earth because Cain found her in the land of Nod and she bore him a son. But, the big question we might want to be asking ourselves is, if there were no other people on the earth why build a city named Enoch? Who would populate it and what would be the need of a city for three people? And we know this couldn't be a daughter of Eve because Adam lived for one hundred and thirty years before Eve conceived and bore Adam his third son Seth: Genesis 5:3 "And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years, and begat [a son] in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:"

Now I have had people tell me that there were giants on the earth at the time of Cain who Cain could have been afraid of, but the bible clearly tells us that these giants came about because the sons of God saw that human women were fair to look upon and they mated with human women to produce the giants. ✡ Judaism: Genesis 6:1 "And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them," Genesis 6:2 "That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose." Genesis 6:4 "There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bear children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown." So, the giants of the Old Testament were not present during the time when Cain had his conversation with God, unless we admit that there were already other people multiplying on the earth in which the sons of God could be attracted too, because the giants didn't come about until after men started multiplying on the face of the earth. "According to The Book of Enoch, the mingling of angel and human was actually the idea of Shernihaza, the leader of the evil angels, who lured 200 others to

cohabit with women. The offspring of these unnatural unions were giants 450 feet high. The wicked angels and the giants began to oppress the human population and to teach them to do evil. For this reason God determined to imprison the angels until the final judgment and to destroy the earth with a flood."

(Other Apocrypha, The Book of Giants)

Also, if there was only Adam and his family on the earth, ask yourself, where did the other people come from that weren't members of his family? Where did the gentiles come from? The bible tells us that members of Adam's family became the Hebrew children and later the Jewish people, but if there were only the members of Adam's family on the earth where did the gentile people come from? For there are several different groups of people inhabiting this planet with differing features that make up the human race, there had to be other people on the earth for the gentiles to exist in the bible?

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "According to history, sixty centuries have elapsed since the time of Adam, the first man of whom we have any record,"**

(Compilations, Baha'i Prayers 9, p. 40)

Before Adam we don't have any written records of what went on before him, but what we do have is skeletons of man discovered by archaeologists that date back thousands of years before the time of Adam, which demonstrates scientifically that mankind existed long before the advent of Adam, six thousand years ago. And, we have the word of David informing us of the grandness of God's covenant with mankind, which is at the very least a thousand generations before his time:  **Judaism: 1 Chronicles 16:15 "Be ye mindful always of His covenant; the word which He commanded to a thousand generations;" "The generation, the term of years, roughly 30 among human beings, accepted as the average period between the birth of parents and the birth of their offspring." So we have at the very least 30 years x 1000 generations before David to account for right out of the writings of the bible, which is definitely more than six thousand years ago and**

skeletons of modern man dating back to around 200,000 years ago and skeletons of earlier forms of mankind dating back 6 million or so years ago. So mankind has been around a lot longer than six thousand years ago and we find part of this right out of the writings of David.

"It's believed that (modern) humans originated about 200,000 years ago in the Middle Paleolithic period in southern Africa. By 70,000 years ago, humans migrated out of Africa and began colonizing the entire planet. They spread to Eurasia and Oceania 40,000 years ago, and reached the Americas by 14,500 years ago."

"One of the oldest sites of human settlement is located at Middle Awash in Ethiopia, where humans lived 160,000 years ago."

"The oldest known hominid, or humanlike species, has been dated at 4.4 million years old. Another species, which is yet to be confirmed as a hominid, has been dated at 6 million years old."

And if this doesn't cause a person to stop and think we also have the writings of Adam himself and his son Seth to verify this:

"For our forefathers there shall be forgiving of sins. For Yus'amin son of Dmut-Hiia there shall be forgiveness of sins. For Abatur son of Bihrat there shall be forgiveness of sins. For Hablaba and Kana-d-Zidqa there shall be forgiveness of sins. For the twenty-four 'ut-hras, sons of light, there shall be forgiveness of sins. For Pthahil son of Zahriel there shall be forgiveness of sins. For Adam son of Qin and Eve his wife there shall be forgiveness of sins. For S'itil (Seth) son of Adam there shall be forgiveness of sins. There shall be forgiveness of sins for S'um (Shem) son of Noah and Nuraita his wife." (Sabeanism, The Ginza Rba- the writings of Adam and Seth, and possibly Noah and his son Shem, chapter 170)

For Adam son of Qin and Eve his wife and their third son Seth there shall be forgiveness of sins. And, this is by no means the complete list of all those individuals forgiven of sins by God. The list of ancestors stretches far backwards in time before the advent of Adam and Eve on this earth, and stretches forward after the time of Adam and Eve and their third son Seth. So, I would say this constitutes the existence of other people before Adam from Adam's very own words.

As to Adam being formed from the dust of the ground, this is true. Mankind is made up of elements of the earth: carbon, potassium, sodium, chloride, etc… The bible says God formed man from the dust of the ground, but it doesn't actually say when He created man: ✡ Judaism: Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man

became a living soul." This doesn't state that this is just Adam being talked about some six thousand years ago, and, the bible uses the term man (plural). It doesn't say God created only one man, but man as in more than one. It is just after this that Genesis tells us that God placed a man who He had formed in a garden east in Eden: 2:8 "And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed." (?) People just assume that when God is creating man it is only Adam being talked about, but what they might not be taking into account is, this is the bible, the word of God, which can be very symbolic, because God is spiritual in nature and therefore His teachings are also spiritual in nature: ✝ Christianity: John 4:23 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit." God is of the spirit and He wants us to worship Him in the spirit! 2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:" 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not,"

The bible says God formed Adam but it doesn't necessarily say matter of factually just how He formed him, and all of us, every man, animal, plant, bacterium etc... is formed of the dust of the ground. So, is this story symbolic, definitely! Is this the only way these facts can be looked at, definitely not. And what if God did form the very first Adam from the dust of the physical ground, does it really matter? Paul tells us: 1 Corinthians 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." So, here we have at least two Adams in question in the writings of the bible, how many more there are of importance only God knows. What we do know is: even Jesus, who had only one parent, had Mary and Joseph to tend to his needs and take care for him when he needed; are we saying Adam couldn't have had the same loving care as Jesus did? We know the people of Jesus' time thought Joseph was his father, the bible tells us this: John 6:41 "The Jews then murmured at him," John 6:42 "And they said, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?'"

I'm just saying the story of Adam is symbolic and not so readily discerned: ✡ Judaism: Hosea 12:9 "And I that am the LORD thy God," 12:10 "I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied

visions and used similitude's (analogies), by the ministry of the prophets." Luke 1:68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people," 1:69 "And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;" 1:70 "As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:" Christianity: Acts 3:20 "And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:" 3:21 "Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

So, what I can say is this, The Holy Bible has multiple meanings, "multiplied visions," spoken in "similitude's" (analogies), by the holy prophets since the beginning of the world: "God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." What I am trying to say to you is this, just read the stories found in the bible over again, very closely, with an open mind, and see what other interesting facts and questions you can come out of the holy book with. And, don't be so narrowly minded, in your reading, that your thoughts are only fixed on a certain way of thinking; that only the man construed theological interpretations and beliefs men have contrived over the years as the only way of understanding God's Holy Writings blind you to the truth: Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." Don't let the words of people who may, or may not have been inspired in their understanding, blind you to openly searching and seeking understanding for yourself: 2 Peter 1:21 "For prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," 1:20 "No prophecy of the scripture (therefore) is of any private interpretation (but is open to all)." So, with this one statement Peter tells you: investigate the writings of God for yourself with an open mind. 1 Thessalonians 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know verily that the purpose underlying all these symbolic terms and abstruse allusions, which emanate from the Revealers of God's holy Cause, hath been to test and prove the peoples of the world; that thereby the earth of the pure and

illuminated hearts may be known from the perishable and barren soil." (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 49)

"Alas, alas! the world has not discovered the reality of religion hidden beneath the symbolic forms!" (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 187)

Adam and Eve.

2. <u>Adam and Eve</u>: The story of Adam and Eve is a biblical story I have found evidence of in all the great world religions. It differs, somewhat, going from one religion to another, but it is still a story filled with symbolisms and spiritual significance no matter which religion you are investigating.

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "If we take this story in its apparent meaning, according to the interpretation of the masses, it is indeed extraordinary. The intelligence cannot accept it, affirm it, or imagine it; for such arrangements, such details, such speeches and reproaches are far from being those of an intelligent man, how much less of the Divinity -- that Divinity Who has organized this infinite universe in the most perfect form, and its innumerable inhabitants with absolute system, strength and perfection."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 121)

If we look at some of the passages in the story with a reasoning mind we began to realize some of the symbolism behind the words. For example: <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Genesis</u> 2:21 "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;" <u>Genesis</u> 2:22 "And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man."

I have honestly heard some people, with at least a high school education, tell me that a man has one rib less than a woman because God took one of his ribs out to make woman. Some people believe this

story word for word regardless of whether it makes any sense or not. And I ask the question of them, if Adam was the first man created and Eve the first woman created from Adams rib, how did Adam know about birthing and parents? And, this is before the eating of the forbidden fruit so he didn't learn it that way. Genesis 2:24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Anyone with an inquisitive mind can see that there is something not quite right with this story, if we take this story literally. If we take this story literally we can see how the visual images contradict reason. For more information (see Adam was not the first man created).

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We must reflect a little: if the literal meaning of this story were attributed to a wise man, certainly all would logically deny that this arrangement, this invention, could have emanated from an intelligent being. Therefore, this story of Adam and Eve who ate from the tree, and their expulsion from Paradise, must be thought of simply as a symbol. It contains divine mysteries and universal meanings, and it is capable of marvelous explanations. Only those who are initiated into mysteries, and those who are near the Court of the All-Powerful, are aware of these secrets. Hence these verses of the Bible have numerous meanings."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 122)

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 2:16 "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:" Genesis 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Now most people who are Christian know this story and know that Adam and Eve did eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil: Genesis 3:1 "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Genesis 3:2 "And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:" Genesis 3:3 "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it,**

neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." Genesis 3:4 "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:" Genesis 3:5 "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:6 "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." Genesis 3:7 "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

Now, Adam and Eve did not physically die as God had told them they would, death was symbolic, their eyes were just opened to the nature of what is good and what is evil, causing them to fall from grace and realize they were naked. ✡ Judaism: Genesis 3:11 "And He said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" Genesis 3:12 "And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Genesis 3:13 "And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

Most of the people in the world that believe in God believe in an All Powerful, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, All knowing etc... God. ✝ Christianity: Revelations 1:8 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." Revelations 19: 6 "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." As I said most people believe in a great, wonderful God. What they don't believe in is a God that is not all knowing who would lie to His children just because it suits Him. So, what we have here is a dilemma? Either we take the story of Adam and Eve at face value as a literal event, in which case God told Adam an out right lie, which most people believe is impossible for God to do, Titus 1:2 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" or we acknowledge That this story of Adam

and Eve must be spiritual in which case Adam and Eve were never intended to die physically but the meaning of death was symbolic for:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We will say: Adam signifies the heavenly spirit of Adam, and Eve His human soul. For in some passages in the Holy Books where women are mentioned, they represent the soul of man. The tree of good and evil signifies the human world; for the spiritual and divine world is purely good and absolutely luminous, but in the human world light and darkness, good and evil, exist as opposite conditions."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 122)

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 5:2 "male and female created he them, and blessed them, and called their name Adam," It would make sense that if Adam was the heavenly spirit and Eve his human soul to call their name Adam because they were one and the same person. This is just one possible explanation, there can be other explanations as to the meaning of this story and this is just one. What it does mean is that none of this story can be taken literally at face value. And if we really think about it most people do not really believe in a God who is so limited that he can walk through a garden talking to people in ignorance of what is going on around Him: Genesis 3:8 "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden." Genesis 3:9 "And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" Genesis 3:10 "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." As I just said, I do not know of a God I can hide myself from. Jeremiah 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD."**  **Christianity: Matthew 10:30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered." Luke 12: 7 "But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows." God even knows the very number of the hairs on our heads, how much more would He know where we are**

every minute of the day. Another thing for us to keep in mind, God is spirit not of the physical realm.

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit." God is not limited by a physical body like we humans. He can be everywhere at once and cognizant of all things.**  **Judaism: Jeremiah 23:24 "Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD." God is everywhere, what He is not is limited by a mere physical body. Paul tells us physical flesh cannot go where God is so God must be in a spiritual form.**  **Christianity: 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;" Flesh and blood CAN NOT! go to heaven where God is, so of what use would God have of a physical body? Remember, when Moses supposedly saw God he wasn't allowed to see His face:**  **Judaism: Exodus 33:23 "And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen." He was only allowed to see part of God but God hid His face from Moses because Moses could not see the face of God and live. Exodus 33:20 "And He said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." No man can see the face of God and live! If Moses could not see the face of God and live, I ask the question, how could Adam see the face of God and live? And in answer I say, these two stories were never meant to be taken literally at face value word for word. If we take these two stories at face value they contradict one another. The two statements can't both be right. Either we can see God's face or we can't. If we take these two stories literally they can't both be right; but if we accept that they are symbolic with other hidden meanings both stories can be correct. We just need to remember that these two statements need to be looked at in a new light and studied with an open mind.**

If this isn't conclusive enough proof of the non-literal nature of the word of God: Moses, Christ, John and Matthew tell us:  **Christianity: John 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." Now, 1:18 "no man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." 1 John 4:11 "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love**

one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us." "Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit."

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 3:7 "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons." 3:8 "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden." 3:9 "And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" 3:10 "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." 3:11 "And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" 3:17 "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;" 3:18 "Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;" 3:19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." 3:20 "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living." 3:21 "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them." I don't know of a God that anyone can hide from: Jeremiah 23:23 "Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?" 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? Saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? Saith the LORD."**

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 4:4 "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:" 4:5 "But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell." 4:6 "And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?" 4:7 "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him." 4:8 "And Cain**

talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.” 4:9 “And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?” 4:10 “And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.” 4:11 “And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;” 4:12 “When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.” 4:13 “And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.” 4:14 “Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.” 4:15 “And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.” Exodus 33:11 “And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.” 33:12 “And Moses said unto The LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.” 33:13 “Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.” 33:14 “And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.” 33:15 “And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.” 33:16 “For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.” 33:17 “And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.” 33:18 “And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.” 33:19 “And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.” 33:20 “And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.” 33:21 “And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt

stand upon a rock:" 33:22 "And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:" 33:23 "And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen." **Christianity: 1 Corinthians 10:1 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;" 10:2 "And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;" 10:3 "And did all eat the same spiritual meat;" 10:4 "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."**

Eventually the whole of these two stories comes back to, it is not the physical world God is ultimately drawing us toward but to the afterlife, so symbolism in biblical stories like the story of Adam and Eve and Moses seeing God are used not only to test our spiritual perception, but to help us look beyond this physical world and glimpse a little into the workings of the next life.

BAHA'I FAITH: "The meaning of the serpent is attachment to the human world. This attachment of the spirit to the human world led the soul and spirit of Adam from the world of freedom to the world of bondage and caused Him to turn from the Kingdom of Unity to the human world. When the soul and spirit of Adam entered the human world, He came out from the paradise of freedom and fell into the world of bondage. From the height of purity and absolute goodness, He entered into the world of good and evil."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 122)

Give account of thy actions.

3. Give account of thy actions: God is the ultimate judge. He watches all, is aware of all and is ready to judge our actions at a moment's notice, for death unheralded can take us at any time, and

there we will be giving account for our actions before those who hold us accountable for all our actions in this life. Christianity: Romans 14:12 "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." We will be ask of our doings in this life when we pass out of this mortal life: Christianity: Revelations 20:12 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." We must bring ourselves to account each day before we are summoned to a reckoning. Judaism: Ecclesiastes 11:9 "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bring thyself to account each day ere thou art summoned to a reckoning; for death, unheralded, shall come upon thee and thou shalt be called to give account for thy deeds."

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

We are warned in both the bible and the Bahá'í Faith that we should bring ourselves to account for our actions for death unheralded shall come on us. Judaism: Ecclesiastes 12:13 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:14 "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Christianity: Revelations 2:23 "I will give unto every one of you according to your works." It couldn't be any clearer in the bible or the Bahá'í Writings we are repeatedly warned to give account for our deeds.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bring thyself to account ere thou art summoned to a reckoning, on the Day when no man shall have strength to stand for fear of God, the Day when the hearts of the heedless ones shall be made to tremble."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 236)

Animal nature of man.

4. Animal nature of man: There are two natures in man the higher nature or the spiritual side of man and the lower earthly animalistic side of man which lives for the world: ✝ Christianity: 1 Corinthians 15:44 "There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." The spiritual side of man craves light and seeks to know its maker. The lower side, like the animal, craves the things of this life and seeks fulfillment in this world. ✡ Judaism: Ecclesiastics 3:18 "I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts." Ecclesiastics 3:19 "For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity." Ecclesiastics 3:20 "All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again." Ecclesiastics 3:21 "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"

BAHA'I FAITH: "In man there are two natures; his spiritual or higher nature and his material or lower nature."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 60)

✡ JUDAISM: Psalms 49:12 "Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish." Psalms 49:20 "Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish." ✝ Christianity: Jude 1:10 "But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves." Jude 1:11 "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Consider how base a nature it reveals in man that, notwithstanding the favors showered upon him by God, he should lower himself into the animal sphere, be wholly occupied with material needs, attached to this mortal realm, imagining that the greatest happiness is to attain wealth in this world. How purposeless! How debased is such a nature!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 185)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Peter 2:12 "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;" 2 Peter 2:13 "And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;" 2 Peter 2:14 "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:" 2 Peter 2:15 "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray,"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "But if he is baptized with the Holy Spirit, if he is freed from the bondage of nature, released from animalistic tendencies and advanced in the human realm, he is fitted to enter into the divine Kingdom."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 304)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 15:40 "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another." 1 Corinthians 15:49 "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The pathway of nature is the pathway of the animal realm. The animal acts in accordance with the requirements of nature, follows its own instincts and desires. Whatever its impulses and proclivities may be it has the liberty to gratify them; yet it is a captive of nature. It cannot deviate in the least degree from the road nature has established. It is utterly minus spiritual susceptibilities, ignorant of divine religion and without knowledge of the kingdom of God." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 235**

"For the world of nature is an animal world. Until man is born again from the world of nature, that is to say, becomes detached from the world of nature, he is essentially an animal, and it is the teachings of God which converts this animal into a human soul." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 289)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "I hope that the unspeakable goodness of God will so strengthen you that the celestial quality of your soul, which relates it to the spirit, will forever dominate the material side, so entirely ruling the senses that your soul will approach the perfections of the Heavenly Kingdom."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 97)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God in His infinite goodness has exalted us to so much honour, and has made us masters over the material world. Shall we then become her slaves? Nay, rather let us claim our birthright, and strive to live the life of the spiritual sons of God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 108)

Antichrist.

5. Antichrist: There is great fear and anxiety among the Christian community about the appearance of one who will come who will be evil incarnate, who will be the antichrist. It is believed that the

antichrist will be someone in power and he will be someone who has the ability to deceive many, but what does the bible really say about the antichrist? 1 John 2:22 "He that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son." Someone who denies Jesus is Christ, who denies God and Jesus is an antichrist. I say is an antichrist (plural) because the bible tells us there is more than one, in fact the bible tells us there are many antichrists. 1 John 2:18 "Ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." There are many antichrists, in fact, there were many antichrists even during the time that John was on this earth. In fact, the bible tells us that a person who denies that Christ came in the flesh is considered to be an antichrist: 1 John 4:3 "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." The antichrist was already in the world during the time John was alive on this earth according to John. But, one may ask how can this be? And as I stated earlier, if we look at how John defines an antichrist we have our answer: 2 John 1:7 "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." John is pretty clear about who is an antichrist, someone who denies Jesus was the Christ who came into this world in the flesh; anyone who does this is considered a deceiver and an antichrist; and this is not time sensitive. There were many antichrists back during the time of John and there have been many since the time of John including, and right up to, the present day. But I'm sure the question in some people's mind is what about the claim of a great world deceiver whose number is Six hundred threescore and six or 666 whose mark will be placed in their right hand or in their forehead who will prevent people from buying and selling unless they have the mark; and what I've got to say to them is that they are confusing the antichrist with the beast spoken of in Revelations. That is not to say that the beast will not be an antichrist or this particular antichrist they are worrying about I'm sure he is due to my own research, but what if he doesn't openly deny that Jesus came in the flesh how will we know him, and I've got to say, if a person really wants to know the answer to these questions about the beast and the mark and buying and selling etc... as well as many of

the other questions one may have about the book of Revelations there are three books I suggest you read: one is New Keys to the Book of Revelations by Ruth Moffett, another one is The Apocalypse Unsealed by Robert F. Riggs and Understanding the Revelation to Saint John by Dr. Alan D. Clark, these three books start at the beginning of Revelations and go throughout all the chapters explaining the meaning of all of the verses found in Revelations. But for those people who want to know more about the beast and the mark of the beast right now: (see Seal or mark or sign for more information). I have given a brief explanation about the beast, the mark of the beast, buying and selling etc.....

As for those people who are just looking for the names of the antichrists dealing with this day and time, the antichrist of the Bábí Revelation was Haji Mirza Aqasi and the Antichrist of the Bahá'í Revelation was Siyyid Muhammad-i-Isfahani; here are some brief statements about them:

 **BABI RELIGION: "Haji Mirza Aqasi, the Grand Vizier and the spiritual guide of Muhammad Shah, has been called the Antichrist of the Bábí Revelation. He was a man bankrupt of ideas and bereft of graces. A native of Iravan in the Caucasus, his real name was Mirza 'Abbas. From the day he learned of the advent of the Báb, he bore Him intense enmity which never abated. It was he who prevented a meeting between the Báb and Muhammad Shah, when, by the direct order of the Shah himself, the Báb was moved from Isfahan and it seemed that the cherished hope of Manuchihr Khan for their meeting would at last be realized."**

(H.M. Balyuzi, The Bab - The Herald of the Day of Days, p. 116)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Siyyid Muhammad-i-Isfahani, who is described by Shoghi Effendi as the 'Antichrist of the Bahá'í Revelation.' He was a man of corrupt character and great personal ambition who induced Mirza Yahya to oppose Bahá'u'lláh and to claim prophethood for himself Although he was an adherent of Mirza Yahya, Siyyid Muhammad was exiled with Bahá'u'lláh to 'Akká. He continued to**

agitate and plot against Bahá'u'lláh." (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 249)

There are some indicators of there being an antichrist hinted at in the book of Daniel in the seventh chapter: Daniel 7:24 "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings." Daniel 7:25 "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Daniel 7:26 "But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end." and some verses found in the book of Revelations chapter twelve verses three and four: Revelation 12:3 "And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads." Revelation 12:4 "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born." Revelation 12:5 "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Then it is said in the second verse: 'and she being with child cried," meaning that this Law fell into the greatest difficulties and endured great troubles and afflictions until a perfect offspring was produced -- that is, the coming Manifestation, the Promised One, Who is the perfect offspring, and Who was reared in the bosom of this Law, which is as its mother. The child Who is referred to is the Báb, the Primal Point, Who was in truth born from the Law of Muhammad -- that is to say, the Holy Reality, Who is the child and outcome of the Law of God, His mother, and Who is promised by that religion, finds a reality in the kingdom of that Law; but because of the despotism of the dragon the child was carried up to God. After twelve hundred and sixty days (the year 1260 in Islam) the dragon was destroyed, and the child of the Law of God, the Promised One, became manifest."**

(Some Answered Questions, p. 68)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: Verses 3 and 4. “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth."[1] These signs are an allusion to the dynasty of the Umayyads who dominated the Muhammadan religion. Seven heads and seven crowns mean seven countries and dominions over which the Umayyads had power: they were the Roman dominion around Damascus; and the Persian, Arabian and Egyptian dominions, together with the dominion of Africa -- that is to say, Tunis, Morocco and Algeria; the dominion of Andalusia, which is now Spain; and the dominion of the Turks of Transoxania. The Umayyads had power over these countries. The ten horns mean the names of the Umayyad rulers -- that is, without repetition, there were ten names of rulers, meaning ten names of commanders and chiefs -- the first is Abu Sufyan and the last Marvan -- but several of them bear the same name. So there are two Muaviya, three Yazid, two Valid, and two Marvan; but if the names were counted without repetition there would be ten. The Umayyads, of whom the first was Abu Sufyan, Amir of Mecca and chief of the dynasty of the Umayyads, and the last was Marvan, destroyed the third part of the holy and saintly people of the lineage of Muhammad who were like the stars of heaven.”**
[1 Cf. Rev. 12:3-4.]

(Some Answered Questions, p. 68)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: Verse 4. “And the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour the child as soon as it was born."[1] As we have before explained, this woman is the Law of God. The dragon was standing near the woman to devour her child, and this child was the promised Manifestation, the offspring of the Law of Muhammad. The Umayyads were always waiting to get possession of the Promised One, Who was to come from the line of Muhammad, to destroy and annihilate Him; for they much feared the**

appearance of the promised Manifestation, and they sought to kill any of Muhammad's descendants who might be highly esteemed."
[1 Cf. Rev. 12:4.]

(Some Answered Questions, p. 68)

BAHA'I FAITH: Verse 5. "And she brought forth a man child, Who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron." This great son is the promised Manifestation Who was born of the Law of God and reared in the bosom of the divine teachings. The iron rod is a symbol of power and might -- it is not a sword -- and means that with divine power and might He will shepherd all the nations of the earth. This son is the Báb."

(Some Answered Questions, p. 68)

As can be seen these terms were symbols of rulers and countries related to Islam as are the verses about the beast which will be addressed later on in this work or you can skip to that topic right now; what they are not is something to be taken literally and they are not something that is really related to this day we now live in.

Now other people believe that the story of the biblical antichrist spoken of in Daniel, that most of the Christians of today fear and are looking for, begins in chapter ten of the book of Daniel starting at verse 10:14 and going all the way through to verse 12:13 which is the end of the book of Daniel: Daniel 10:14 "Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days."

This time spoken of is like that of the beast spoken of in Revelations related to the Umayyad dynasty of Islam, after the death of Muhammad. The Umayyads took over the control of the affairs of Islam from their rightful heirs and the things spoken of in chapters ten, eleven and twelve of Daniel all relate to things that went on in the times and the territories by the actions of the rulers of the Umayyad hierarchy.

There is mention of the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel: Daniel 12:11 "the abomination that maketh desolate," which relates the finishing of this time of great corruption in the year 1844 by the Judeo-Christian calendar or 1260 in the Islamic calendar; which is further elaborated on by the mention of the end of all of this coming at a time, times, and an half (which again is 1260 in number): Daniel 12:6 "And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?" Daniel 12:7 "And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." "Three years and a half make forty-two months, and forty-two months are twelve hundred and sixty days (1260)." Revelation 11:3 "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth (the year 1260)." 11:4 "These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth." (see abomination and desolation in Three main prophecies of the 2nd coming of Christ for more information)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In Daniel, chapter 12, verse 6, it is said: "And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by Him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and a half; and that when He shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." [1][1 Cf. Dan. 12:6-7.]**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 42)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "As I have already explained the signification of one day, it is not necessary to explain it further; but we will say briefly that**

each day of the Father counts as a year, and in each year there are twelve months. Thus three years and a half make forty-two months, and forty-two months are twelve hundred and sixty days. The Báb, the precursor of Bahá'u'lláh, appeared in the year 1260 from the Hejira of Muhammad, by the reckoning of Islam."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 42)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Afterward, in verse 11, it is said: "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolation be set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days."[1][1 The reference appears in verses 11 and 12.]**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 42)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The beginning of this lunar reckoning is from the day of the proclamation of the prophethood of Muhammad in the country of Hijaz; and that was three years after His mission, because in the beginning the prophethood of Muhammad was kept secret, and no one knew it save Khadijah and Ibn Nawfal. [1] After three years it was announced. And Bahá'u'lláh, in the year 1290 from the proclamation of the mission of Muhammad, caused His manifestation to be known.[2][1 Varaqat-Ibn-Nawfal, Khadijah's cousin.][2 The year 1290 from the proclamation of the mission of Muhammad was the year 1280 of the Hejira, or 1863-64 of our era. It was at this epoch (April 1863) that Bahá'u'lláh, on leaving Baghdad for Constantinople, declared to those who surrounded Him that He was the Manifestation announced by the Báb. It is this declaration which the Bahá'ís celebrate by the Feast of Ridvan, this name being that of the garden at the entrance of the city, where Bahá'u'lláh stayed during twelve days, and where He made the declaration."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 42)

Fear not; don't be afraid of what man can do to you.

6. Don't be afraid. Fear not; don't be afraid of what man can do to you when God is with you: Judaism: Psalms 56:3 "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee." 56:11 "In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me." We are not to fear what man, even an antichrist, can do to us, God is with us, and the things man can do only affect the physical body not the spiritual soul found inside man.

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 3:13 "And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" 1 Peter 3:14 "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;" Hebrews 13:6 "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Be not afraid of anyone, place thy whole trust in God, the Almighty, the All-Knowing."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 189)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Do as Thou willest, and fear not the ignorant."

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts)

Be not afraid God is with us.

7. Be not afraid God is with us: God and His angels are watching over us all of the time, trying to guide us along a path that, in reality, is for our very own good. Be not despaired if things contrary to our wishes are ordained by our Creator for us. God only, in reality, desires that which is best for us, even if events in our lives appear severe in nature to our health, well-being and maybe our very lives. Bahá'í Faith: "We, verily, desire for you naught save what shall profit you."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 75) Christianity: Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights."

BAHA'I FAITH: "We, verily, desire for you naught save what shall profit you, and to this bear witness all created things, had ye but ears to hear." (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 75) "Be not afraid of anyone, place thy whole trust in God, the Almighty, the All-Knowing." (Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 189)

Remember, God is trying to groom us for a good life in the next world, not for the vanities and pleasures of the life in this world. Judaism: 1 Chronicles 28:20 "Be strong and of good courage, and ..... fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee." Deuteronomy 1:21 "Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 3:13 "And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" 1 Peter 3:14 "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;" (Because, there in, we become martyrs for the sake of God) Revelation 1:17 "Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth." (God The Father is with us)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Fear not the tempestuous gales, O Mariner! He Who causeth the dawn to appear is, verily, with Thee."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 36)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Do as Thou willest, and fear not the ignorant." "Turn unto Him, and fear not."**

(The Summons of the Lord of Hosts and The Kitab-i-Aqdas)

Ask not for things God does not desire for us.

8. Ask not for things God does not desire for us:

Christianity: James 4:3 "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Do not, out of greed or vanity, pray to God for things that can be harmful to our souls and God has no wish to grant us, for the great harm it will do to our souls. Be not despaired if our prayers are answered contrary to our wishes or not seemingly answered at all. Remember, God only, in reality, desires that which is best for us, even if events in our lives appear severe in nature to our health and well-being. Remember, God is trying to groom us for a good life in the next world, not for the vanities and pleasures of life in this plane of existence.

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 6:7 "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." Matthew 6:8 "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF SPIRIT! Ask not of Me that which We desire not for thee, then be content with what We have ordained for thy sake, for this is that which profiteth thee, if therewith thou dost content thyself."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

We are allowed to come to God by His choice.

9. We are allowed to come to God by His choice: In the Bahá'í Faith there is a saying that people don't just become Bahá'ís haphazardly, but that they have done something in their lives, some good deed that has pleased God, to merit the gift of God calling them to Him. Bahá'í Faith: "Some, O my God, Thou didst, through Thy strengthening grace, enable to approach it, while others Thou didst keep back by reason of what their hands have wrought in Thy days."

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 76)

I think this was also the case when Christ brought Christianity to man from what I have read in the bible. Christianity: John 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." John 6:44 "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:" John 6:65 "..... no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Verily this is a rich blessing for which the saints of the past longed. Be happy and say: 'God chooses for His favors whom-so-ever He willeth. He is the Merciful, the Generous!'"

"O ye who are set aglow with the fire of God's Love! Blessed are ye for having been chosen by God for His love, in this new age, and joy be to you for having been guided to the Great Kingdom! Verily, your Lord hath chosen you to show the path to the Kingdom of God, among the people."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 84)

JUDAISM: Psalms 65:4 "Blessed is the man whom Thou choosest, and causes to approach unto Thee, that he may dwell in Thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house, even of Thy holy temple."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Thank God for choosing thee, saving thee and granting thee of these great blessings and glorious attainments."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 111)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 15:16 "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you." John 15:17 "These things I command you, that ye love one another."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Verily, my God chooses whomsoever He willeth, by His mercy and generosity, for entrance into the Kingdom of Glory and shineth the lights of (His) Beauty upon them."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 269)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 15:19 "I have chosen you out of the world,"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH "O thou friend! Verily, those among the friends who were martyred in the path of God -- verily this is a favor from God which He bestoweth upon whomsoever He chooses; verily God is the most bountiful!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 333)

The religions of God hint at other worlds.

10. (All worlds). The religions of God hint at other worlds He created besides this one: This is a well-known fact in science today, but somewhere around 33 A.D. how could anyone have possibly known except God's messenger told him this. And this is not just a teaching of Christianity, but it is spoken about in the Bahá'í Writings of God as well.  **Christianity: Hebrews 1:1 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets," Hebrews 1:2 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made**

the worlds;" Hebrews 11:3 "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Judaism: Psalms 89:11 "The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fullness thereof, thou hast founded them."

BAHA'I FAITH: "This physical universe is infinite, and if material existence is endless, how much more so are the worlds of God! When we think of the visible worlds as infinite, how can we think that the worlds of God are limited? There is no beginning and no end to the material or spiritual worlds. Man passes through different phases and when in a lower consciousness he cannot comprehend the consciousness above."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 117)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Verily I say, the creation of God embraceth worlds besides this world, and creatures apart from these creatures. In each of these worlds He hath ordained things which none can search except Himself, the All-Searching, the All-Wise."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 152)

Creation is a direct evidence of the attributes of God.

11. All creation is a direct evidence of the attributes of God: All existence is begotten by God and as such all things in creation have signs and attributes of God in them that we can study to learn more about God. Bahá'í Faith: "All that man is able to understand are the attributes of Divinity, the radiance of which appears and is visible in the world and within men's souls."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 221)

CHRISTIANITY: Romans 1:20 "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth is a direct evidence of the revelation within it of the attributes and names of God, inasmuch as within every atom are enshrined the signs that bear eloquent testimony to the revelation of that Most Great Light."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 176)

JUDAISM: Daniel 4:2 "I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the High God hath wrought.... 4:3 How great are His signs!"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Each existing being, proclaims to us one of the names of God, but the reality of man is the collective reality, the general reality, and is the center where the glory of all the perfections of God shine forth. That is to say, for each name, each attribute, each perfection which we affirm of God, there exists a sign in man; if it were otherwise, man could not imagine these perfections, and could not understand them."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 310)

God is the creator of all things, but God is separate and apart from His creation.

12. God is the creator of all things, but God is separate and apart from His creation, not part of it: The books of God tell us that the heavens cannot completely contain God, so how can we believe this tiny structure of a planet can hold Him, let alone a single physical body: Judaism: 1 Kings 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on

the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" 2 Chronicles 6:18 "But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee (Him); how much less this house which I have built!" Jeremiah 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD."

 **CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 1:19 "And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power," Ephesians 1:20 "Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised him from the dead, and set him at His own right hand in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:21 "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." Ephesians 4:4 "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;" 4:5 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." God is far above this world, this universe, above any power, might and dominion. He is far above His creation whether we think of this world or the next world. God is far above and beyond everything; what-so-ever we might think or conceive of God, He is beyond it. No comparison is there to God and His creation, so far above and beyond is He, and this is told to us in the Bahá'í writings of God as well.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Regard thou the one true God as One Who is apart from, and immeasurably exalted above, all created things. The whole universe reflecteth His glory, while He is Himself independent of, and transcendeth His creatures. This is the true meaning of Divine unity. He Who is the Eternal Truth is the one Power Who exerciseth undisputed sovereignty over the world of being, Whose image is reflected in the mirror of the entire creation. All existence is dependent upon Him, and from Him is derived the source of the sustenance of all things. This is what is meant by Divine unity; this is its fundamental principle."**

"Some, deluded by their idle fancies, have conceived all created things as associates and partners of God, and imagined themselves to

be the exponents of His unity. By Him Who is the one true God! Such men have been, and will continue to remain, the victims of blind imitation, and are to be numbered with them that have restricted and limited the conception of God."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 165)

Control your anger.

13. Control your anger: The management of anger is a topic mentioned throughout the bible and Bahá'í Faith. We must control our temper for the sake of each other for the improvement of what is acceptable interaction between one human and another, or for the sake of humanity as a whole. How many wars would be prevented if men would just sit down and talk to one another calmly controlling tempers? How many heart aches in life would be prevented if we would just control ourselves and treat each other decently? The management of anger is a topic of supreme importance in the world today and not something God would just leave to our own devices; anger is addressed for a benefit to mankind in the religions of God. Christianity: Colossians 3:8 "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth." Colossians 3:21 "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger," Ephesians 4:31 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:" Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

JUDAISM: Ecclesiastes 7:9 "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools." Psalms 37:8 "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil." Proverbs 16:32 "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty;"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Let nothing grieve thee, and be thou angered at none. It behoveth thee to be content with the Will of God."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 25)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be in perfect unity. Never become angry with one another. Let your eyes be directed toward the kingdom of truth and not toward the world of creation. Love the creatures for the sake of God and not for themselves. You will never become angry or impatient if you love them for the sake of God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 92)

Attributes of God are one thing found universally in all the great religions of God.

14. Attributes are one thing found universally in all the great religions of God, and the attributes of God can easily be located throughout the writings of the bible and the Bahá'í Faith: The way for us to know God is through His attributes. We can't physically see God or touch Him, but we can find out more about God and about His nature by observing His attributes in action through the holy word. This might not tell us just what God is, but it will tell us something about, what He is about.

a. God is all seeing: Christianity: Matthew 6:3 "But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 6:4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:6 "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to

the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Hebrews 4:13 "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His (God's) sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

JUDAISM: Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Psalms 94:9 "He that planted the ear, shall He not hear? He that formed the eye, shall He not see?" Jeremiah 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD." Job 34:21 "For His (God's) eyes are upon the ways of man, and He seeth all his goings."

BAHA'I FAITH: "God, who sees all hearts, knows how far our lives are the fulfillment of our words."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 81)

BAHA'I FAITH: "God is the seer, and the eye is the sign of His vision."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 310)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Nothing is, or can ever be, hidden from God."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 8)

b. God is all knowing, foreknowledge is an attribute of God:

Judaism: 1 Chronicles 28:9 "The LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts:" Jeremiah 18:23 "LORD, thou knowest all." Sirach 42:18 "The Lord knoweth all that may be known," (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) 4 Ezra 26. "The Lord knoweth all." 54. "Behold, the Lord knoweth all the works of men, their imaginations, their thoughts, and their hearts." (Deuterocanonical

Apocrypha, Esdras 2) Christianity: 1 John 3:20 "God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." John 21:17 "Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love thee." Matthew 6:8 "Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." Luke 12:6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? 12:7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered (and known to God). Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Nothing is, or can ever be, hidden from God." "To this I testify before God, the Almighty, the Exalted, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, pp. 8 and 90)

BAHA'I FAITH: "God, verily, is the Helper, the Knower, the Ordainer, the Omniscient."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 138)

c. God is all powerful, omnipotence is an attribute of God:

Judaism: Deuteronomy 3:24 "O Lord GOD, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?" Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for Me?" Nehemiah 9:32 "Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God," 2 Maccabees 34. "Declare unto all men the mighty power of God." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) Christianity: 1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God." John 15:5 "Without Me ye can do nothing." Romans 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Revelation 19:6 "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Thou art in truth the Mighty, the Powerful, the Gracious, the Strong."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 440)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Verily thy Lord is He Who giveth and divesteth, the Mighty, the Powerful."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 149)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Verily, there is none other God beside Me, the Omnipotent Protector, the Self-Subsisting!"

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 128)

d. Justice is one of the attributes of God found in the religions:

Judaism: Deuteronomy 32:4 "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He." Isaiah 45:21 "Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside Me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside Me." Zephaniah 3:5 "The just LORD is in the midst thereof; He will not do iniquity: every morning doth He bring his judgment to light, He faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame." Christianity: Acts 22:14 "The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know His will, and see that Just One," Revelations 15:3 "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Even as God is pronounced to be just, man must likewise be just."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity)

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON of SPIRIT! The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice; turn not away therefrom if thou desirest Me, and neglect it not that I may confide in thee. By its aid thou shalt see with thine own eyes and not through the eyes of others, and shalt know of thine own knowledge and not through the knowledge of thy neighbor. Ponder this in thy heart; how it behooveth thee to be. Verily justice is My gift to thee and the sign of My loving-kindness. Set it then before thine eyes."

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

e. Mercifulness and compassion are two like attributes of God:

Judaism: 1 Chronicles 16:34 "O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever." 2 Samuel 22:26 "With the merciful Thou wilt shew Thyself merciful, and with the upright man Thou wilt shew Thyself upright." Psalms 100:5 "For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations." Psalms 103:8 "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." Lamentations 3:31 "For the LORD will not cast off for ever: 3:32 But though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion according to the multitude of His mercies." Christianity: Luke 6:36 "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." 2 Corinthians 1:3 "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;" 1 Peter 3:8 "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:" 3:9 "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing." Sirach 18:11 "Therefore is God patient with them, and poureth forth his mercy upon them." 18:12 "Therefore he multiplied his compassion." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Thou art the Giver of all! Thou art the Forgiver! Thou art the Merciful!"

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 24)

BAHA'I FAITH: "He is the All-Bounteous, and of those who show mercy, He is the Most Merciful."

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 4)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Put your faith in the Almighty, for He faileth not and His goodness endureth for ever! His Sun giveth Light continually, and the Clouds of His Mercy are full of the Waters of Compassion with which He waters the hearts of all who trust in Him."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 108)

f. God is pure perfection

the religions of God tell us, perfection is an attribute of God: Judaism: Deuteronomy 18:13 "Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God." Deuteronomy 32:4 "He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He." 2 Samuel 22:31 "As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: He is a buckler to all them that trust in Him." Psalms 50:2 "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined." Christianity: Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." 2 Corinthians 13:9 "For we are glad, when we are weak, and Ye are strong: and this also we wish, even Your perfection."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Divinity of God, which is the sum of all perfections, reflects itself in the reality of man; that is to say, the Essence of Oneness is the gathering of all perfections, and from this unity He casts a reflection upon the human reality. Man then is the perfect mirror facing the Sun of Truth, and is the center of radiation: the Sun of Truth shines in this mirror. The reflection of the divine perfections appears in the reality of man, so he is the representative of God, the messenger of God. If man did not exist, the universe would be without result, for the object of existence is the appearance of the perfections of God."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 310)

BAHA'I FAITH: "God is pure perfection, and creatures are but imperfections."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 113)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Be ye perfect even as your Father which is in heaven."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 79)

g. Pureness is an attribute of God:

Judaism: Psalms 119:140 "Thy word is very pure: therefore Thy servant loveth it." Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him." Job 11:4 "For Thou hast said, My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in Thine eyes." Christianity: 1 John 3:3 "And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." James 3:17 "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

BAHA'I FAITH: "God is pure perfection, and creatures are but imperfections."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 113)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The favors of the Blessed Perfection, the very stars of the bestowal of God, blessed trees and flowers in the garden of His purity and sanctity."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The virtues and attributes pertaining unto God are all evident and manifest, and have been mentioned and described in all the heavenly Books. Among them are trustworthiness, truthfulness, purity of heart while communing with God, forbearance, resignation to whatever the Almighty hath decreed, contentment with the things His Will hath provided, patience, nay, thankfulness in the midst of tribulation, and complete reliance, in all circumstances, upon Him. These rank, according to the estimate of God, among the highest and most laudable of all acts. All other acts are, and will ever remain, secondary and subordinate unto them...."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 290)

h. Righteousness is one of the attributes of God:

Judaism: Psalms 5:8 "Lead me, O LORD, in Thy Righteousness." Psalms 7:9 "Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for The Righteous God trieth the hearts and reins." Psalms 119:142 "Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth." Psalms 129:4 "The LORD is righteous." Christianity: 1 John 2:29 "If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him." 1 John 3:7 "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He (God) is righteous."

BAHA'I FAITH: "By the righteousness of God!"

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 20)

BAHA'I FAITH: "By the righteousness of the one true God! The very breath of these souls is in itself richer than all the treasures of the earth. Happy is the man that hath attained thereunto, and woe betide the heedless."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 10)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O people! Can ye ever hope to escape the sovereign power of your Lord? By the righteousness of God! No refuge will ye find in this day, and no one to protect you, save those upon whom God hath bestowed the favour of His mercy. He, verily, is the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Compassionate."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts)

i. God is a God of love, love is an attribute of God:

Judaism: Deuteronomy 7:12 "The LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which He sware unto thy fathers: And He will love thee, and bless thee," Deuteronomy 10:15 "The LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them," Zephaniah 3:17 "The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing. Christianity: Ephesians 2:4 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us," 1 John 3:16 "Hereby perceive we the love of God," 1 John 4:7 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 2 Corinthians 13:11 "Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Unity is the expression of the loving power of God and reflects the reality of divinity. It is resplendent in this day through the bestowals of light upon humanity."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 217)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God is loving and merciful. His intention in religion has ever been the bond of unity and affinity between humankind."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 279)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The gaze of the loving-kindness of God -- exalted and glorified is He -- hath everlastingly been directed towards His beloved friends; verily He is the One Who knoweth and remembereth."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 236)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "There is none other God but Him, the One, the Single, the Mighty, the Loving."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts)

j. God is full of kindness, kindness is an attribute of God:

Judaism: Psalms 26:2 "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart." Psalms 26:3 "For Thy loving kindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in Thy truth." Psalms 31:21 "Blessed be the LORD: for He hath shewed me His marvelous kindness." Psalms 36:7 "How excellent is Thy loving kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings." Psalms 117:1 "O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise Him, all ye people." Psalms 117:2 "For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth forever. Praise ye the LORD." Isaiah 54:8 "With everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer." Christianity: Ephesians 2:7 "In the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Titus 3:4 "The kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O holy Lord! O Lord of loving-kindness! We stray about Thy dwelling, longing to behold Thy beauty, and loving all Thy ways. We are hapless, lowly, and of small account. We are paupers: show us mercy, give us bounty; look not upon our failings, hide Thou our endless sins. Whatever we are, still are we Thine, and what we speak and hear is praise of Thee, and it is Thy face we seek, Thy path we follow. Thou art the Lord of loving-kindness,"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 6)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Have ye forgotten My loving-kindness and My mercy that have surpassed all created things, and which proceeded from God."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 128)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The gaze of the loving-kindness of God -- exalted and glorified is He -- hath everlastingly been directed towards His beloved friends; verily He is the One Who knoweth and remembereth."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 236)

k. Goodness of the Lord. Goodness is an attribute of God:

Judaism: Psalms 33:5 "He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD." Psalms 119:68 "Thou art good, and doest good; teach me Thy statutes." Psalms 136:1 "O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever." Psalms 68:5 "A Father of the fatherless, and a Judge of the widows, is God in His holy habitation." Psalms 72:12 "For He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper." Psalms 145:8 "The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy." Psalms 145:9 "The LORD is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works." Christianity: Ephesians 6:8 "Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free." 2 Thessalonians 1:11 "And fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness." Romans 11:22 "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in His goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."

BAHA'I FAITH: "These are the disciples of God, and His goodness has no bounds. You who are servants of the Most High may be disciples also. The treasuries of God are limitless."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 57)

BAHA'I FAITH: "I hope that the unspeakable goodness of God will so strengthen you that the celestial quality of your soul, which relates it to the spirit, will forever dominate the material side, so entirely ruling the senses that your soul will approach the perfections of the Heavenly Kingdom."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 97)

BAHA'I FAITH: "God in His infinite goodness has exalted us to so much honour, and has made us masters over the material world. Shall we then become her slaves? Nay, rather let us claim our birthright, and strive to live the life of the spiritual sons of God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 108)

l. God is exulted; greatness is one of the attributes of God:

Judaism: Deuteronomy 3:23 "And I besought the LORD at that time, saying, 'O Lord GOD, thou hast begun to shew Thy servant Thy greatness, and Thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to Thy works, and according to Thy might?'" 2 Kings 22:47 "The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation." Christianity: Ephesians 1:19 "And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power." Titus 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;" 2:14 "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God (glorious is His mention) hath called Himself the Lord of the worlds for that He hath nurtured and doth nurture all; exalted is His favor which hath preceded contingent beings and His mercy which hath preceded the worlds."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 65)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Behold, how immeasurably exalted is the Lord your God above all created things! Witness the majesty of His sovereignty, His ascendancy, and supreme power. If the things which have been created by Him -- magnified be His glory -- and ordained to be the manifestations of His names and attributes, stand, by virtue of the grace with which they have been endowed, exalted beyond all proximity and remoteness, how much loftier must be that Divine Essence that hath called them into being?..."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 184)

We are prohibited from committing slander or backbiting.

15. We are prohibited from committing slander or backbiting against each other in the bible and the Bahá'í writings:

The Baha'i Faith tells us that backbiting is considered to be a grievous deed and the tongue a smoldering fire, of devastating consequences, that devoureth both heart and soul:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The tongue is a smoldering fire, and excess of speech a deadly poison. Material fire consumeth the body, whereas the fire of the tongue devoureth both heart and soul. The force of the former lasteth but for a time, whilst the effects of the latter endureth a century."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 264)

The abstinence from backbiting is also a teaching found in the Holy Bible I have found, when examining the book.  Judaism: Leviticus 19:16 "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD." Psalms 15:2 "He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart." Psalms 15:3 "He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour." Psalms 34:13 "Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." Psalms 101:5 "Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "That seeker should, also, regard backbiting as grievous error, and keep himself aloof from its dominion, inasmuch as backbiting quencheth the light of the heart, and extinguisheth the life of the soul."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 265)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 10:18 "He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool." Proverbs 11:13 "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter." Proverbs 17:9 "He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends." Proverbs 18:8 "The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly." Proverbs 20:19 "He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Ye have been forbidden to commit murder or adultery, or to engage in backbiting or calumny; shun ye, then, what hath been prohibited in the holy Books and Tablets."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 26)

 **JUDAISM**: **Proverbs 25:23 "The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue." Proverbs 26:20 "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth." Ecclesiastes 10:11 "Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 12:36 "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." 1 timothy 5:13 "And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busy-bodies, speaking things which they ought not."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The worst human quality and the most great sin is backbiting, more especially when it emanates from the tongues of the believers of God."**

(Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 83)

Baptism in the fire.

16. Baptism in the fire of the Holy Spirit: In the Bahá'í Faith we look at the submersion of the physical body in water for baptism as a symbolic gesture of the cleansing and repentance of the soul of man and not necessarily a physical event that must take place for ones soul to be saved. There is no mention of baptism in the Old Testament anywhere and I would think if physical emersion of the body under water was so important for us God would have started this institution from the very beginning with Adam and Abraham, but we don't see this. If we look in the Holy Bible we find evidence, in the word, to corroborate this belief that physical emersion of the body in water is not exactly necessary for the soul to be saved.  **Christianity: 1 Corinthians 1:17 "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel:" Paul is clear on this, he was not sent to mankind, by Christ, to baptize the people with water, he was sent to humanity to educate mankind into the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

CHRISTIANITY: John 3:36 "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." "When therefore, the LORD (Jesus) knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples, He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee." It states that Jesus made more believers though he did not baptize and we know from the stories about him and his disciples, that they did not baptize the people, bringing up questions about the true, actual necessity for the emersion of the body into water.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Baptism in the days of John the Baptist was used to awaken and admonish the people to repent from all sin,"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 94)

John the Baptist states that he baptized with water, Christianity: Matthew 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Water is the cause of life, and when Christ speaks of water, He is symbolizing that which is the cause of Everlasting Life."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 81)

But John states: "Jesus himself baptized not," while John the Baptist states: Christianity: Matthew 3:11 "but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "This life-giving water of which He speaks is like unto fire, for it is none other than the Love of God, and this love means life to our souls."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 81)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 3:16 "John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:" Now we know that this statement is of a symbolic nature because Christ did not use physical fire to baptize anyone in the scriptures, indeed, as stated earlier, Christ didn't even baptize with water: "Jesus himself baptized not." What this means is that no amount of submersion of the physical body under water is going to make any difference to the soul of mankind, what-so-ever, as long as the heart of that person is in the wrong place; but if that individual's heart is right with God then the soul of that person will be cleansed and repent symbolically of all sin and they will be filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit, or the love of God, and they will gain life everlasting. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "By the fire of the Love of God the veil is burnt which separates us from the Heavenly Realities, and with clear vision we are enabled to struggle onward and upward, ever progressing in the paths of virtue and holiness, and becoming the means of light to the world."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 81)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Here, Jesus confirms the symbolic nature of baptism. One must be born of the water and filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit or they cannot enter into heaven. Acts 1:5 "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost." Here, Paul clearly states the need for man to be baptized of the Holy Ghost, but the mention of the use of water is only in passing as something we use to do, but was no longer needed since the advent of Christ.**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 11:16 "Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost." 1 Corinthians 12:13 "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:41 "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." They that received Peter's words were baptized of the word and received the Holy Ghost. Here the scriptures are quite clear, they that received the word, some three thousand souls, were baptized through the word of Peter, and the Holy Ghost descended upon these people.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The performance of baptismal celebration would cleanse the body, but the spirit hath no share; but the divine teachings and the exhortations of the Beauty of Abha will baptize the soul. This is the real baptism."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 390)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 10:44 "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word." Here we clearly see that the Holy Ghost descended upon the people by just listening to Peter, which again indicates that one does not have to be submerged under water to be filled and saved by the Holy Ghost.**

One needs to reflect; In Jesus' ministry of around three years Jesus Christ brought souls to God in his earthly days, but what he didn't do was go around baptizing new believers, "Jesus himself baptized not." One needs to ask him or herself, if baptism of water was so important why did Christ in general not bother with it? "Jesus himself baptized

not, but his disciples." Jesus only baptized his disciples that followed him and he did this with a drink: Christianity: Mark 10:39 "Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized." And why, if baptism was so important, did Jesus make promises to people that were un-baptized that they would see heaven? Luke 23:42 "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." 23:43 "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Here Jesus makes a profound promise to a thief, who is obviously not baptized, who is, in reality, being crucified with him that he will see heaven with Jesus just by asking.

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 7:48 "And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven." Luke 7:50 "And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." Jesus tells a woman that her faith alone has saved her, he didn't tell her to go get placed under water first and she would be saved. Christ told her, her sins were forgiven and she was saved by her faith, not by the performance of a physical ritual that may or may not have a cleansing effect on the inner heart. Luke 18:41 "What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight." Luke 18:42 "And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee." Again, Jesus tells another person that his faith, in God, has saved him.

And Paul tells us in Acts: Acts 2:21 "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Whoever that will call on the name of the Lord will be saved. It is pretty clear who can get saved and how they can get saved. Everyone that truly, with all earnest endeavor, calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. That doesn't mean that we will be saved without effort on our part to live the life God has marked out for us; we will have to live the life if we want to see the glories of heaven (see Good works and good deeds go with the statement I believe and Good Works according to the writings of Paul).

CHRISTIANITY: Acts 19:2 "He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so

much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." Acts 19:3 "And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism." Acts 19:4 "Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." Acts 19:5 "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." Acts 19:6 "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." When they heard the words of Paul they were baptized in the word. They were not put under water again and baptized of Paul, they had already been baptized and submerged under water by John the Baptist and they had not received the Holy Ghost by the performance of the action, but when Paul laid his hands on them they received the gift of the Holy Ghost and were saved.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Through Christ they were intended to be baptized by the Holy Spirit, attain a new spirit and realize the everlasting life."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 20:18 "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death," Matthew 20:19 "And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again." Matthew 20:22 "But Jesus answered and said, ...Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able." Matthew 20:23 "And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with:" Christ is foretelling of his own death and crucifixion at the hand of the gentiles and he is associating his crucifixion with him being symbolically baptized by his tormenters unto death. Baptism, in this case, is submitting his will to the will of God by allowing himself to be crucified. Christ also hints that his disciples will also be baptizes in like manor and suffer similar fates and also be baptized unto death.**

It appears that baptism can come in different forms by the way the bible reads. With Christ baptism can mean submitting your will to the will of God and being baptized in the fire of physical affliction. With Peter it can be a baptism in the words of the Gospel that light a fire within your soul. With Paul it can be the word of God followed with the laying on of hands bringing the descent of the Holy Ghost upon the believers. All of these ways, in addition to being placed under water, are ways baptism was performed in the Holy Scriptures. And in every instant the coming of the fire of the Holy Ghost followed. What we didn't see was the coming of the Holy Ghost with all that were submerged under water and that is because submerging the body under water is a physical action that results in the cleansing of the physical body and not necessarily the cleansing of the soul or the descent of the all-important Holy Ghost into the soul of man. **Christianity: Acts 11:16 "John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost." It is the coming of the fire and the all-important Holy Ghost that Christ brought with the advent of his message to mankind that is important. His teachings brought the fire to the soul of mankind that John the Baptist promised to man in the gospels. This is the same fire, or love from God, we see bestowed upon man from the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith.**

BAHA'I FAITH: "I beg of God that thou mayest be baptized by the baptism of Bahá'u'lláh and become free from all the stains of the mortal world and that thou mayest take delight in the favors of God in the paradise of unity, and that thou mayest be able to become pleasing to God and mayest appear with thy face illuminated as a candle in the world of eternity."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 66)

We have the baptism of the word symbolically cleansing our soul in the Bahá'í Faith the same as we find in Christianity. This subject is just not talked about much because, as I say, it is symbolic and not a literal event we make a big to do over; we just accept it as part of what it means to become a Bahá'í and try to live the life.

Be a Bahá'í, be a Christian.

17. <u>Be a Bahá'í</u>. I find when I read the writings of the Bible and the writings of the Bahá'í Faith that the two faiths are one in reality. I have found that if someone is truly living the life of a Christian they are living the life of a true Bahá'í, which is as it should be. It only takes some comparison of the two faiths, on our part, to see that they both come from the same Heavenly Father and I find that some excerpts from the Apostle Paul and some excerpts from Abdu'l-Bahá help to make my point. <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Romans</u> 12:9 "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." <u>Romans</u> 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" <u>Romans</u> 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" <u>Romans</u> 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" <u>Romans</u> 12:13 "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality." <u>Romans</u> 12:14 "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not." <u>Romans</u> 12:15 "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." <u>Romans</u> 12:16 "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." <u>Romans</u> 12:17 "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." <u>Romans</u> 12:18 "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." <u>Romans</u> 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." <u>Romans</u> 12:20 "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink." <u>Romans</u> 12:21 "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "'Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer to the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder

and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility. We pray God to protect thee from the heat of jealousy and the cold of hatred. He verily is nigh, ready to answer.' Thus hath My tongue spoken unto one of My Branches (sons), and We have mentioned it unto such of Our loved ones as have cast away their idle fancies, and clung unto that which hath been prescribed unto them in the day whereon the Daystar of Certitude hath shone forth above the horizon of the will of God, the Lord of the worlds. This is the day on which the Bird of Utterance hath warbled its melody upon the branches, in the name of its Lord, the God of Mercy. Blessed is the man that hath, on the wings of longing, soared towards God, the Lord of the Judgment Day." (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 94)

"You must manifest complete love and affection toward all mankind. Do not exalt yourselves above others, but consider all as your equals, recognizing them as the servants of one God. Know that God is compassionate toward all; therefore, love all from the depths of your hearts, prefer all religionists before yourselves, be filled with love for every race, and be kind toward the people of all nationalities. Never speak disparagingly of others, but praise without distinction. Pollute not your tongues by speaking evil of another. Recognize your enemies as friends, and consider those who wish you evil as the wishers of good. You must not see evil as evil and then compromise with your opinion, for to treat in a smooth, kindly way one whom you consider evil or an enemy is hypocrisy, and this is not worthy or allowable. You must consider your enemies as your friends, look upon your evil-wishers as your well-wishers and treat them accordingly. Act in such a way that your heart may be free from hatred. Let not your heart be offended with anyone. If some one commits an error and wrong toward

you, you must instantly forgive him. Do not complain of others. Refrain from reprimanding them, and if you wish to give admonition or advice, let it be offered in such a way that it will not burden the bearer. Turn all your thoughts toward bringing joy to hearts. Beware! Beware! lest ye offend any heart. Assist the world of humanity as much as possible. Be the source of consolation to every sad one, assist every weak one, be helpful to every indigent one, care for every sick one, be the cause of glorification to every lowly one, and shelter those who are overshadowed by fear."

"In brief, let each one of you be as a lamp shining forth with the light of the virtues of the world of humanity. Be trustworthy, sincere, affectionate and replete with chastity. Be illumined, be spiritual, be divine, be glorious, be quickened of God, be a Bahá'í." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 452)

God won't give us more than we can bear.

18. God won't give us more than we can bear. Christianity: 1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." God won't give us more then we can bear. One of the attributes of God is justice and how can God be treating us justly if He gives us difficulties we are not able to deal with; where is the justice in that? And God is most definitely about justice as well as mercy and compassion. Where is God's mercy if he tests us beyond our abilities to endure? Judaism: Deuteronomy 32:4 "He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He." Psalms 37:23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way." Psalms 37:24 "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand." David tells us that if a man falls or sins against God, God won't totally abandon him, but will, out of His love, assist him to do better.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We learn that even though God does test us He will not send us difficulties beyond our endurance: Our Heavenly Father will always give us the strength to meet and overcome tests if we turn with all our hearts to Him, and difficulties if they are met in the right spirit only make us rely on God more firmly and completely."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 417)

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 4:31 "For the LORD thy God is a merciful God; he will not forsake thee." So, 31:6 "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid - for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." So do not fear that God will burden you beyond your capabilities, but what you do to yourselves is another thing, though He does prevent our actions at times from what will hurt us in the long run. Job 34:23 "For He (God) will not lay upon man more than right (or more then man can bear)." Psalms 34:19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We are aware of the assurance which Bahá'u'lláh Himself has given the believers that they will never be called upon to meet a test greater than their capacity to endure."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 341)

We cannot bear all that God's messenger can tell us.

19. We cannot bear all that God's messenger can tell us. All that manifestations of God tell us is not all that they can say. There is much they can tell us but we cannot handle the whole truth. If the messenger were to tell us all that he knows it would be more then we can bear and we might just cease to function in this world. God's manifestations know this so they only give us what we can bear at the time.  Christianity: John 16:12 "I have yet many things to say unto

you, but ye cannot bear them now." John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." 1 Corinthians 3:1 "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:2 "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Follow thou the way of thy Lord, and say not that which the ears cannot bear to hear, for such speech is like luscious food given to small children. However palatable, rare and rich the food may be, it cannot be assimilated by the digestive organs of a suckling child. Therefore unto every one who hath a right, let his settled measure be given."**

"Not everything that a man knoweth can be disclosed, nor can everything that he can disclose be regarded as timely, nor can every timely utterance be considered as suited to the capacity of those who hear it.' Such is the consummate wisdom to be observed in thy pursuits. Be not oblivious thereof, if thou wishest to be a man of action under all conditions. First diagnose the disease and identify the malady, then prescribe the remedy, for such is the perfect method of the skilful physician."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 268)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 5:10 "Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec." Hebrews 5:11 "Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing." Hebrews 5:12 "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat." Hebrews 5:13 "For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe." Hebrews 5:14 "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by**

reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

 **JUDAISM**: **Proverbs** 25:2 **"It is the glory of God to conceal a thing." Deuteronomy 29:29 "The secret things belongeth unto The LORD our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children." Because the Bahá'í Faith: "Divine things are too deep to be expressed by common words." (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 79)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The sayings of Him Who is the Spirit (Jesus) unnumbered significances lie concealed. Unto many things did He refer, but as He found none possessed of a hearing ear or a seeing eye He chose to conceal most of these things. Even as He saith: 'But ye cannot bear them now.' That Dawning-Place of Revelation saith that on that Day He Who is the Promised One will reveal the things which are to come. Accordingly in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, and in the Tablets to the Kings, and in the Lawh-i-Ra'ís, and in the Lawh-i-Fu'ád, most of the things which have come to pass on this earth have been announced and prophesied by the Most Sublime Pen."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 147)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If the Sun of Truth were suddenly to reveal, at the earliest stages of its manifestation, the full measure of the potencies which the providence of the Almighty hath bestowed upon it, the earth of human understanding would waste away and be consumed; for men's hearts would neither sustain the intensity of its revelation, nor be able to mirror forth the radiance of its light. Dismayed and overpowered, they would cease to exist."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 87)

BELIEVE IN GOD!!!

20. <u>BELIEVE IN GOD</u>: It may seem like a strange thing to say, but there are religions and some groups of people that don't believe in an all knowing, all powerful Deity Who is responsible for the creation of the universe. For most of them there is no belief in an afterlife or a continuation of existence after this life either. In their minds we go into utter oblivion and nothingness at the disintegration of this body; and to all this I say (what's the point)? They believe everything just happened in happenstance and everything just came about by some strange, random, cosmic accident of a few atoms coming together and forming compounds that eventually formed life, and there is no real point to any of it. This is by far an over simplification of something that is so insanely complexed it's almost unimaginable in its scope of intricacy to understand.

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "I, verily, have not fallen short of My duty to admonish that people, and to devise means whereby they may turn towards God, their Lord, and believe in God, their Creator."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 156)

In my studies of biology and medicine one of the first things I noticed was the true complexity of everything found in nature. Another thing I noticed was that everything in nature is, in reality, trying to move from a more complexed state or higher state of energy, to a lower simpler form of energy and complexity; eventually leading everything into a void of entropy; loss of all usable energy. This is the truth I found in nature and yet here we have things, almost as if guided by an invisible hand, going from lower states of energy and complexity to higher states of energy and complexity. Now I'm sure there are some skeptics out there who would say that maybe this is not the case and that in reality the true nature of things is that elements found in nature move to higher states of energy and complexity, not lower states, due to the star our planet is orbiting. And to this I would say why does everything in nature eventually age and finally decay and become useless and die? If we were in a system of nature that is perpetual, always evolving and constantly replenishing itself, due to the sun, we shouldn't have ageing, decay or death, we should just go

on living as would all of nature around us; but this is not the case. Something is causing the nature of things to move in reverse and causing things to move to higher states of energy and complexity. Now some might call this a strange coincidence of the universe that we just can't yet comprehend, but for the people who believe in something beyond all of this we call it the will of God effecting the course of nature. So, the actions of the universe tend to indicate the existence of a controller beyond the nature of the universe who some of us tend to call God, Jehovah, Yahweh, I AM, Allah, The Most Great Spirit, Brahma, etc... And if we follow this train of reasoning, then we must believe in an all-powerful creator who the religions tell us we must believe in if we are to truly progress in this world and the next world.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Man cannot grasp the Essence of Divinity, but can, by his reasoning power, by observation, by his intuitive faculties and the revealing power of his faith, believe in God, discover the bounties of His Grace. He becometh certain that though the Divine Essence is unseen of the eye, and the existence of the Deity is intangible, yet conclusive proofs assert the existence of that unseen Reality. The Divine Essence as it is in itself is however beyond all description."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 341)

 **JUDAISM: 2 Chronicles 20:20 "And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper." Sirach 2:6 "Believe in Him, and He will help thee; order thy way aright, and trust in Him. Ye that fear the Lord," (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,)** **Christianity: John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Believe in God; turn unto the Supreme Kingdom; be attracted unto the Beauty of ABHA; remain firm in the Covenant; yearn**

for ascending unto the heaven of the sun of the universe; be disinterested in the world; be alive with the fragrances of holiness in the Kingdom of the Highest; be a caller of love; kind to the human race; gentle with humanity; interested in all the people of the world; wish for harmony and seek friendship and honesty. Be a healing for every wound, a remedy for every sick, a source of harmony among the people; chant the verses of guidance; pray to God; arise for the guidance of the people; let thy tongue explain and thy face illumine with the glowing of the love of God. Rest not a moment and breathe not a breath of repose until thou becomest a sign of God's love and a banner of God's favor."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 98)

Also, for those who want to look further into this:

We can take these seemingly, different world religions on this earth, and these religious pieces, that help form the framework for the development of the society of humanity, and the advancement of the human soul within man, and look at these pieces individually; and we can see how all of these religions interact with one another, and how each of these religions, build on the messages and teachings of the other previous religions, before it, and how each of these religions build on the further, future development of the society of men, and the advancement of the soul within all of mankind. This is also a way, I have found, to shed some light on the activities of God, with regards to humanity and what His great plans may be for us here, in this earthly life. It also reveals to us, a vast network of teachings and prophecies, that tell of a story, of how the works of the various prophets and manifestations of God (the messengers of God), relate to one another, and how their many prophecies all interact with one another, indicating the advent of the various messengers, in relation to one another; and telling a story of the oneness of God, the oneness of the religions of God and the overall oneness of all of mankind, into one human family; which is told, in such a way, that it would seem to have indicated, that the messengers of God, would have appeared to have personally known one another, and yet, this is something that is, really, totally out of the question, given the great distances between

the places in-which these messengers of God appeared on this earth, and the great intervals of time between their revelations; which I believe, is a pretty good indicator, in itself, as to the existence of a God, or a Creator, or an Uncreated One, overseeing these various manifestations and religions.

More information related to this can be seen on my website at www.onenessofreligions.com which will help the reader to see the truth of these statements. The website takes numerous religions and demonstrates how they are all teaching the same teachings and hint at or directly support one another.

By the blood.

21. By the blood. We hear this statement by some Christians, over and over again, by the blood, by the blood of Jesus, and so forth, but some people may be asking themselves, just what do Christians mean by stating "salvation is by the blood of Jesus?" To this I say, we should go back to the beginning where all of this talk about the sanctity of the blood started and see just what the bible has to say about the importance of the blood.

To start with, we have some explanations found in the Old Testament that tell us that the blood is the life source of the flesh. ✡ Judaism: Genesis 9:3 "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." Genesis 9:4 "But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat." Here we see that blood is considered to be the source of life for the flesh and is not to be eaten; but why, I ask myself, is that of any importance to God and man?

In Leviticus Moses tells us that not only is the blood the source of life for the flesh of living creatures, but the blood can, in a sense, be considered as sacred and it can be used for the atonement of the sins of the flesh. ✡ Judaism: Leviticus 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an

atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." God is telling man, through Moses, that He is giving us the life of the flesh, the source blood, to make atonement for our sins by the sacrifice of animals upon the altar, or, in other words, God will recognize that the life source in the animals, that we will give back to Him, will be as an atonement for our sins; or taken in trade for the removal of our sins, for the effort, it will take, on our part, to cleanse ourselves before God.

In other words, the way I see the symbolism playing out behind all this, when we show God we are willing to sacrifice some part of our possessions to acknowledge His rights and His existence, He will lift our sins from off our shoulders in recompense for our efforts to acknowledge that He is the one and only God and we worship Him. This, as I see things, could be one of the meanings for His reasoning behind all of this. But this, as I say, could be one of many reasonings behind this whole symbolic process. There are others I am sure. ✡ **Judaism: Leviticus 17:14 "For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off." Deuteronomy 12:23 "Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood is the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh." We are not to eat the blood with the meat, which, by today's medical knowledge, is sound advice. Blood can carry pathogens that can cause sickness and disease to the one who is ingesting the blood; and he is to be cut off from the rest, because he could be contagious. In other words, God might have a practical reason behind what He is doing, and it only makes sense that God would not want us to ingest blood, because, as I stated elsewhere, God only wants the best for His mortal children and it only makes sense that He would try to prevent disease from forming in His mortal children; and this, as I said, is, besides the point, that God is making the blood sacred for the atonement of sins, which causes the use of the blood, on the altar, to take on a more spiritual and more symbolic role.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The blood also signifies the spirit of life and the divine perfections, the lordly splendor and eternal bounty. For all the members of the body gain vital substance from the circulation of the blood." (Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 97) "That His remembrance may run as the spirit in thy blood veins and limbs, and thus fill thee with the thoughts of the love of God." (Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 314)**

Abdu'l-Baha, the son of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet founder of the Bahá'í Faith, is telling us that the blood of life can be spiritual in nature or have a more spiritual, symbolic meaning, which we find with Jesus Christ in his teachings as he taught in Capernaum. Christianity: John 6:54 "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:55 "For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed." John 6:56 "He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him." John 6:57 "As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me." John 6:63 "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

In Christ's very own words, at Capernaum, he tells us that the words he is speaking are of a spiritual nature, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit." Jesus is warning us that the words he is speaking are spiritual and symbolic in nature, and not to be taken literally. Christianity: John 8:43 "Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word." Jesus is telling us that we, humans, are not hearing or understanding his words; that there is a spiritual, symbolic side to his words. And Jesus repeats this message to his disciples once more at the last supper thereby doubling the importance of spiritual truth he is trying to get his disciples and the rest of mankind to understand the importance of: Mark 14:22 "And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body." Mark 14:23 "And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it." Mark 14:24 "And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Although they consider the wine and the bread in the church as the blood and body of Christ, yet this is but appearance and not reality. The reality of Christ is the words of the Holy Spirit. If thou art able, take a portion thereof."

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 457)

Jesus Christ is opening the door to the Holy Spirit for us if we are "able to take a portion thereof," or we are spiritually capable of allowing the spirit of God's love to enter into our hearts and move our souls closer to God in the process. Christianity: Hebrews 13:12 "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered." Hebrews 9:11 "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;" Hebrews 9:12 "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Christ takes the use of sacrificial blood a step further by using his very own Life's Blood as a sacrifice for us to demonstrate the length, to which, he would go through to demonstrate to us the greatness of his and God's love for us. By the shedding of his very own blood, which is "shed for many," which Paul seems to go a step further telling us that by the blood of Jesus we obtain salvation? By the shedding of his blood Christ entered into the holy place of God and obtained eternal redemption or salvation for us. This metaphor is used by Paul to help us understand what Jesus and God are really trying to do for us. Is it symbolic? of course; we find in the bible symbolic homilies to get God's message across to men, all the time, He tells us so: Christianity: John 6:63 "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 8:43 "Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word." Matthew 13:14 "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:" 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart." Luke 8:8 "He

that hath ears to hear, let him hear." But some Christians take this sacrificial use of Christ's blood further then it is intended.

Some Christians say that if you believe in Christ you are saved regardless of your actions on this earth, because we have a blanket of eternal salvation through the blood of Christ. And I have a question for them? What do they think is going to happen on the Day of Judgment? (I address this topic later in this work). Christianity: 1 John 2:4 "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:5 "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him." For, 1 John 2:6 "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." James 2:24 "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." James 2:25 "Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?" James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." Romans 3:31 "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." Hebrews 10:19 "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus," Hebrews 10:20 "By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;" Hebrews 10:21 "And having an high priest over the house of God;" Hebrew 10:22 "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)" Hebrews 10:24 "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:" Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:26 "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins," This is not a Bahá'í teaching, we believe in the forgiveness of God at His will.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: 308.12 "It is not easy for people to learn the Bahá'í way, to overcome their inherited prejudices or to resist their personal temptations. This way takes time, is subject to checks and backsliding." This is a process that takes time and patients on our part. When one says he believes he takes his first step on the road to perfection, one does not start out perfect, one grows towards perfection daily. Why else would God be sending us messengers with teachings? He knows we are going to fall, at times, He is just there to pick us up when we stumble with mercy and forgiveness for all His children who are trying to live the life He has set out for us.**

(The Universal House of Justice, Messages 1963 to 1986, p. 516)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Minds are developed, hopes brighten, aspirations become spiritual, the virtues of the human world appear with freshened power of growth, and the image and likeness of God become visible in man." (Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 89) "Blessed art thou for keeping firm in the Cause of God. I pray God to give thee a divine spirit, spiritual blood and to make thee a growing and thriving leaf on the Tree of Life." (The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 95)**

This is my body.

22. This is my body. In the bible we find that Christ associates his body with food that men partake of. Christianity: Matthew 26:26 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body." Matthew 26:27 "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;" Matthew 26:28 "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." It is not hard to realize when reading these three verses that the true meaning of these statements are symbolic, for spiritual interpretation only, and not to be taken literally. The writings of the Bahá'í Faith tell us that these statements are symbols for spiritual bounties and perfections that lead man to eternal life:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When Christ blessed the bread and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'This is My body,' and gave grace to them, He was with them in person, in presence, and form. He was not transformed into bread and wine; if He had been turned into bread and wine, He could not have remained with the disciples in body, in person and in presence."**

"Then it is clear that the bread and wine were symbols which signified: I have given you My bounties and perfections, and when you have received this bounty, you have gained eternal life and have partaken of your share and your portion of the heavenly nourishment."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 98)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 6:32 "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven." John 6:33 "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world." John 6:34 "Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread." John 6:35 "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." John 6:51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."**

The Bahá'í Faith tells us that this bread is spiritual food that comes from the divine manifestation to feed the soul of mankind that man may gain eternal life.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Through the manifestation of Christ, the divine teachings, which are an eternal bounty, were spread abroad, the light of guidance shone forth, and the spirit of life was conferred on man. Whoever found guidance became living; whoever remained lost was seized by enduring death. This bread which came down from heaven**

was the divine body of Christ, His spiritual elements, which the disciples ate, and through which they gained eternal life.

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 98)

Bragging is bad and prohibited by God.

23. Bragging is bad. We are told, for our own good, that bragging and being boastful is not only a bad thing to do but it is, in reality, bad for us. This is a teaching found throughout the religions of God: Bragging and vanity diminish our spiritual susceptibilities, and limit our spiritual progress. Boastfulness and vanity is a hindrance we, as developing spiritual beings, can do without; if we wish to advance ever towards our creator. Judaism: Proverbs 27:2 "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips." Proverbs 27:1 "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Psalms 10:3 "For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth." Psalms 10:4 "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts." Christianity: James 3:13 "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." (do not brag of yourself) James 4:16 "But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know thou of a truth that the seeker must, at the beginning of his quest for God, enter the Garden of Search. In this journey it behoveth the wayfarer to detach himself from all save God and to close his eyes to all that is in the heavens and on the earth. There must not linger in his heart either the hate or the love of any soul, to the extent that they would hinder him from attaining the habitation of the celestial Beauty. He must sanctify his soul from the veils of glory and refrain from boasting of such worldly vanities, outward knowledge, or other gifts as God may have bestowed upon

him. He must search after the truth to the utmost of his ability and exertion, that God may guide him in the paths of His favour and the ways of His mercy. For He, verily, is the best of helpers unto His servants. He saith, and He verily speaketh the truth: 'Whoso maketh efforts for Us, in Our ways shall We assuredly guide him.' And furthermore: 'Fear God and God will give you knowledge.'"

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 27)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Children of God do the works without boasting, obeying His laws."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 17)

God created all things and everything belongs to God.

24. God created all things and everything belongs to God. Everything on this earth, everything in the heavens, everything in this existence and in the existence of beyond this existence. Everything belongs to God, including ourselves. We are only allowed to become Stewarts on this earth, which belongs to Him, out of the grace of God and by His leave. We are nothing without His aid: ✡ Judaism: Genesis 9:3 "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." Enoch (Apocrypha) "And they shall all belong to God," Deuteronomy 29:29 "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." 1 Chronicles "For all things come of Thee, and of Thine own."

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 6:19 "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" 6:20 "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."**

1 Corinthians 3:9 "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "There is no power nor strength but in God alone.' 'We are God's, and to Him shall we return.'"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 252)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Unto God, the Lord of Lords, belong the kingdoms of earth and heaven."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 16)

Be a benefit to all mankind.

25. Be a benefit to all mankind: Religion is not a religion if it does not benefit the people who adhere to it: Bahá'í Faith: "Religion should be the Cause of Love and Affection." "Religion should unite all hearts and cause wars and disputes to vanish from the face of the earth, give birth to spirituality, and bring life and light to each heart. If religion becomes a cause of dislike, hatred and division, it were better to be without it, and to withdraw from such a religion would be a truly religious act. For it is clear that the purpose of a remedy is to cure; but if the remedy should only aggravate the complaint it had better be left alone. Any religion which is not a cause of love and unity is no religion. All the holy prophets were as doctors to the soul; they gave prescriptions for the healing of mankind; thus any remedy that causes disease does not come from the great and supreme Physician."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 130)

 **JUDAISM: 2 Maccabees 2:27 "seeketh the benefit of others:" 1 Maccabees 11:33 "We are determined to do good to the people." Psalms 37:3 "Trust in the LORD, and do good;" to all men.**

Christianity: 1 Philemon 1: 14 "I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly." Luke 6:27 "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you," 6:28 "Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." Galatians 6:10 "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,"

BAHA'I FAITH: "The purpose of religion as revealed from the heaven of God's holy Will is to establish unity and concord amongst the peoples of the world; make it not the cause of dissension and strife. The religion of God and His divine law are the most potent instruments and the surest of all means for the dawning of the light of unity amongst men. The progress of the world, the development of nations, the tranquility of peoples, and the peace of all who dwell on earth are among the principles and ordinances of God. Religion bestoweth upon man the most precious of all gifts, offereth the cup of prosperity, imparteth eternal life, and showereth imperishable benefits upon mankind."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 129)

God will not allow one man to bear the burden or sins of another.

26. We are told, in the writings of God, that (God will not allow one man to bear the burden or sins of another): That is not justice and God deals with mankind justly: Judaism: Deuteronomy 32:4 "He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He." God is justice! Deuteronomy 24:16 "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin." Ezekiel 18:20 "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the

righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."

 **CHRISTIANITY: Galatians 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Galatians 6:4 "Let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." Galatians 6:5 "For every man shall bear his own burden."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God (glorious is His mention) saith: 'None shall bear the burden of another.'"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 71)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The one true God -- glorified be His Name! -- hath said: 'None shall bear the burden of another.'"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "You must consider your enemies as your friends, look upon your evil-wishers as your well-wishers and treat them accordingly. Act in such a way that your heart may be free from hatred. Let not your heart be offended with anyone. If some one commits an error and wrong toward you, you must instantly forgive him. Do not complain of others. Refrain from reprimanding them, and if you wish to give admonition or advice, let it be offered in such a way that it will not burden the bearer. Turn all your thoughts toward bringing joy to hearts. Beware! Beware! lest ye offend any heart. Assist the world of humanity as much as possible. Be the source of consolation to every sad one, assist every weak one, be helpful to every indigent one, care for every sick one, be the cause of glorification to every lowly one, and shelter those who are overshadowed by fear."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 453)

Born again.

27. Born again: The act of being born again is a term and condition, a philosophical ideology most commonly thought to be related to the study of the Christian Faith. Jesus said we must be born again to receive eternal life and most people just leave it at that. But I thought to myself, if this is an all important step we must go through to open the doors of heaven to us, then the Bahá'í Writings must also teach of this. Bahá'í Faith: "Jesus Christ said 'Ye must be born again' so that divine Life may spring anew within you. Be kind to all around and serve one another; love to be just and true in all your dealings; pray always and so live your life that sorrow cannot touch you. Look upon the people of your own race and those of other races as members of one organism; sons of the same Father; let it be known by your behaviour that you are indeed the people of God. Then wars and disputes shall cease and over the world will spread the Most Great Peace."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 82)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Until man is born again from the world of nature, that is to say, becomes detached from the world of nature, he is essentially an animal, and it is the teachings of God which converts this animal into a human soul."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 289)

This teaching of Christ as we can see is definitely a teaching found in the Writings of the Bahá'í Faith, but it is also found in the Jewish writings: 2 Maccabees 7:14 "So when he was ready to die he said thus, It is good, being put to death by men, to look for hope from God to be raised up again by him." "The oil of mercy shall be for generation to generation for those who are ready to be born again of water and the

Holy Spirit to life eternal." (Other Apocrypha, The Books of Adam and Eve)

And it is most known from the teachings of Christianity: Christianity: 1 Peter 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:" 1:23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." John 3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'" John 3:5 "Jesus answered, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, pp. 51 and 52)

Breathed, the breath of life God bestowed upon us.

28. Breathed, the breath of life God bestowed upon us: The religions of God tell us that God breathed the breath of life or the breath of His spirit into mankind therefore we became living souls encased in these physical bodies. Judaism: Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Christianity: Acts 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" Acts 17:25 "Neither is worshipped with

men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Praise be unto God! What an effect there lies in divine guidance! It endoweth the blind with sight, granteth strength to the impotent, maketh the darkened ones illuminated, changeth the satanic character into a heavenly beauty, confereth youth to the aged; nay, rather it breathed life into the dead!"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v3, p. 658)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 93)

Spiritually blind.

29. Spiritually blind. One thing that seems very common to religion is the number of spiritually blind people who assail God's prophet and chosen followers and try to stop God's Holy Process: This is something that seems to be a very common denominator in the religion of God. In the early days of a religion; when God's holy manifestation appears on the earth, spiritually blind people who cannot see past the literal meaning of the word try to rise up and stamp out God's holy religion, for the most part, by trying to destroy God's holy manifestation and his followers. This has happened throughout the many religious histories, and even those prophets, who like Moses, who was a literal redeemer of the people, even Moses had

problems with the people not following his words. There was Pharaoh, Moses had to contend with, as well as, the followers of Moses rebelling whenever they were given a chance. His people rebelled and turned away from God on a regular basis even when he was alive, and God would have to discipline them once more and turn their eyes back towards Him. ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 29:2 "And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, Ye have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt unto Pharaoh, and unto all his servants, and unto all his land;" 29:3 "The great temptations which thine eyes have seen, the signs, and those great miracles:" 29:4 "Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day." Isaiah 42:20 "Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not." Isaiah 42:23 "Who among you will give ear to this? who will hearken and hear for the time to come?" Ezekiel 12:1 "The word of the LORD also came unto me, saying," 12:2 "Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house."

✝ CHRISTIANITY: John 9:39 "And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind." Matthew 13:14 "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:" 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

✝ CHRISTIANITY: Luke 6:39 "And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?" Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." 2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:" 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Not seeing past the literal interpretation of the word of God is a fairly common mistake on the part of the religious leaders and those that follow them.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Shall blind imitations of ancestral forms and theological interpretations continue to guide and control the religious life and spiritual development of humanity today? Shall man gifted with the power of reason unthinkingly follow and adhere to dogma, creeds and hereditary beliefs which will not bear the analysis of reason in this century of effulgent reality? Unquestionably this will not satisfy men of science, for when they find premise or conclusion contrary to present standards of proof and without real foundation, they reject that which has been formerly accepted as standard and correct and move forward from new foundations."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 225)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O My brother! Forsake thine own desires, turn thy face unto thy Lord, and walk not in the footsteps of those who have taken their corrupt inclinations for their god, that perchance thou mayest find shelter in the heart of existence, beneath the redeeming shadow of Him Who traineth all names and attributes. For they who turn away from their Lord in this day are in truth accounted amongst the dead, though to outward seeming they may walk upon the earth, amongst the deaf, though they may hear, and amongst the blind, though they may see, as hath been clearly stated by Him Who is the Lord of the Day of Reckoning: 'Hearts have they with which they understand not, and eyes have they with which they see not.'"**

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O My servant, who hast sought the good-pleasure of God and clung to His love on the Day when all except a few who were endued with insight have broken away from Him! May God, through His grace, recompense thee with a generous, an incorruptible**

and everlasting reward, inasmuch as thou hast sought Him on the Day when eyes were blinded."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 36)

There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

30. "There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." When we pass on out of this life we leave the physical body behind and receive our new spiritual form: This is a teaching found throughout the religions of God; we are more than just a physical body. ✝ Christianity: 1 Corinthians 15:42 "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:" 1 Corinthians 15:43 "It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:" 1 Corinthians 15:44 "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:40 "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another." 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;" This physical body cannot go to heaven, only the spirit within us can go to that spiritual kingdom. Ephesians 4:4 "There is one body, and one Spirit," Paul makes the final distinction, there is one body of man and there is one spirit or the living soul of man. James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead." We without spiritual development, on our part, are also dead; when in regard to the splendors of the kingdom of the next world. The spiritual glory we receive is in direct proportion to the efforts we made in this life.

✡ JUDAISM: Proverbs 20:27 "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord." Job 32:8 "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." Isaiah 38:15 "What shall I say? He hath both spoken unto me, and Himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul." Isaiah 38:16 "O LORD, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit:

so wilt Thou recover me, and make me to live." Isaiah 38:17 "Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it."

BAHA'I FAITH: "When man dies, his relation with the body ceases. The sun is reflected in the mirror; the mirror reflects the light and brilliancy of the sun, but the sun does not reside in the mirror. It does not enter nor come out of the mirror, nevertheless one sees it in the mirror, so the soul reflects itself in the body. If the mirror be broken the sun does not die. The body is the temporary mirror; the spiritual soul suffers no change, no more than the sun does remaining eternally in its own station. Even as in the world of dreams when all the physical faculties are in abeyance and the soul travels in all realms seeing, hearing, speaking, so when the physical body decomposes, the soul is not affected."

"From the moment the soul leaves the body and arrives in the Heavenly World, its evolution is spiritual, and that evolution is: The approaching unto God."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy and Paris Talks, p. 66)

BAHA'I FAITH: "When the soul attaineth the Presence of God, it will assume the form that best befitteth its immortality and is worthy of its celestial habitation."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 157)

Brotherhood, love ye one another.

31. Brotherhood and love for one another are teachings found in all the great religions of the world: Christianity is known the world over as the religion of brotherly love. Love and brotherhood are two of the most important and fundamental components of Christianity. But it is also found in Judaism as well as the Bahá'í writings. Judaism: Leviticus 19:18 "Thou shalt not avenge,

nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:34 "But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself;" Deuteronomy 10:19 "Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." Zechariah 7:8 "And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying," Zechariah 7:9 "Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother" Zechariah 7:10 "And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart."

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Thessalonians 3:12 "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:" 1 Thessalonians 3:13 "To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints." 1 Thessalonians 4:9 "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another." This love of mankind is especially true in the Bahá'í Faith, love and brotherhood hold two extremely high positions in the ranks of the faith.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Equality and Brotherhood must be established among all members of mankind. This is according to Justice. The general rights of mankind must be guarded and preserved. All men must be treated equally. This is inherent in the very nature of humanity."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 28

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 12:31 ".....Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself....." John 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." Romans 13:8 "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." 1 Peter 1:22 "Seeing ye have**

purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." 1 John 3:11 "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." 1 John 3:23 "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment." 1 John 4:21 "And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;" Hebrews 13:1 "Let brotherly love continue." 1 Peter 2:17 "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood." 1 Peter 3:8 "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Let us be united one another and love." (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 61) "Equality and Brotherhood must be established among all members of mankind. This is according to Justice. The general rights of mankind must be guarded and preserved." (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 29) "Bahá'u'lláh constrains you to realize your brotherhood to one another." (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 66)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The second teaching of Bahá'u'lláh concerns the unity of mankind. All are the servants of God and members of one human family. God has created all and all are His children. He rears, nourishes, provides for and is kind to all. Why should we be unjust and unkind? This is the policy of God, the lights of which have shone throughout the world. His sun bestows its effulgence unsparingly upon all, His clouds send down rain without distinction or favor, His breezes refresh the whole earth. It is evident that humankind without exception is sheltered beneath His mercy and protection. Some are imperfect; they must be perfected. The ignorant must be taught, the sick healed, the sleepers awakened. The child must not be oppressed or censured because it is undeveloped; it must be patiently trained. The sick must not be neglected because they are ailing; nay, rather, we must have compassion upon them and bring them healing. Briefly; the old conditions of animosity, bigotry and hatred between the**

religious systems must be dispelled and the new conditions of love, agreement and spiritual brotherhood be established among them."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 239)

Good character.

32. Develop a Good character. In the Baha'i Faith great emphasis is placed on having a good character. A good character is the hallmark of the personality of many religionists and a great many Baha'is so that Bahá'ís may become a blessing to all mankind. Like in the Bahá'í Faith the foundations for a good character are also found in the Holy Scriptures of the bible helping to demonstrate to us the oneness of religion. Christianity: 1 Timothy 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:" 1 Corinthians 13:3 "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:4 "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up," Judaism: Deuteronomy 15:7 "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:" Deuteronomy 15:8 "But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth." Proverbs 3:27 "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it." Christianity: 1 John 3:17 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Strive to attain nearness to reality through the acquisition of strength of character, through morality, through good works and helping the poor, through being consumed with the fire of the love of God and in discovering each day new spiritual mysteries."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 99)

JUDAISM: Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." 1 Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;" 2 Timothy 3:17 "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

BAHA'I FAITH: "His object is to array every man with the mantle of a saintly character, and to adorn him with the ornament of holy and goodly deeds,"

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 299)

CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 10:24 "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:" James 3:13 "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." Judaism: Proverbs 19:1 "Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Conform to the rules of good conduct and their character be second to none; that they make their own all the graces and praiseworthy qualities of humankind;"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 142)

JUDAISM: Proverbs 19:17 "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again." Proverbs 19:22 "The desire of a man is his kindness:"

CHRISTIANITY: 2 Corinthians 6:6 "By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned," Colossians 3:12 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;" 2 Peter 1:6 "And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;" 2 Peter 1:7 "And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Display divine tolerance, love, kindness, patience, a goodly character, and holy deeds."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 268)

JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 23:23 "That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform;" Numbers 32:24 "Do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth." Christianity: Luke 8:15 "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience." 2 Corinthians 8:21 "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Every soul that walketh humbly with its God, in this Day, and cleaveth unto Him, shall find itself invested with the honor and glory of all goodly names and stations."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 159)

CHRISTIANITY: Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." 2 Peter 1:3 "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory

and virtue:" 2 Peter 1:5 "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O people of God! Do not busy yourselves in your own concerns; let your thoughts be upon that which will rehabilitate the fortunes of mankind and sanctify the hearts and souls of men. This can best be achieved through pure and holy deeds, through a virtuous life and a goodly behavior."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 93)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 22:9 "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor."**  **Christianity: Matthew 5:42 "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." Luke 3:11 "He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O people of the world, ye are all the fruit of one tree and the leaves of one branch. Walk with perfect charity, concord, affection, and agreement. I swear by the Sun of Truth, the light of agreement shall brighten and illumine the horizons."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 42)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 22:11 "He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend." Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loveth at all times."**  **Christianity: Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith," 1 Timothy 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Holy of Holies is the essence of the Law of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Christ, Muhammad, the Báb, and Bahá'u'lláh, and which lasts and is established in all the prophetic**

cycles. It will never be abrogated, for it is spiritual and not material truth; it is faith, knowledge, certitude, justice, piety, righteousness, trustworthiness, love of God, benevolence, purity, detachment, humility, meekness, patience and constancy. It shows mercy to the poor, defends the oppressed, gives to the wretched and uplifts the fallen."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 47)

Christ's name, if you hear it don't go, because he will have a new name.

33. Christ's name, if you hear it don't go, because he will have a new name. In the writings of the Bahá'í Faith we discover that God is not bias towards His other children, but that He sends other messengers or prophets to the varying people when His message is needed to reform the people of that land. In doing this God uses many different messengers at different times throughout history with many different names depending on what is needed at that particular juncture in human history. Why else would Jesus say to his disciples if you hear my name, don't go there? Because, of course, Christ already knows that the next prophet coming along the line would in fact have a new name and a new message, because that is what mankind would be needing at that time. ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 62:2 "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name." ✝ Christianity: Revelations 2:17 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Since Christ already knew the next coming manifestation of God would arrive bearing a new name, is it any wonder that Christ warned his followers not to go if they heard his name spoken. Matthew 24:4 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you." Matthew 24:5 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

Matthew 24:23 "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not." Matthew 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:25 "Behold, I have told you before." Matthew 24:26 "Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Mark 13:6 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Mark 13:21 "And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:" Mark 13:22 "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect." Revelations 3:12 "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." So, here we can clearly see that with Christ's next coming not only would he come bearing a new name, but Christ clearly states he will have a new name and he will also write that new name on his followers; symbolically of course.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "For each one a temple is designated, a mission is indicated, a manifestation is decreed, and certain limitations are assigned. Each one is named by a certain name, characterized by a quality, and appointed to a new Cause and Law; as it is said: 'These are the Messengers; We have preferred some of them before others; Some of them hath God spoken unto, and hath exalted the degree of others of them. And we gave unto Jesus, the son of Mary, manifest signs and strengthened Him with the Holy Spirit.'"**

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 46)

Christ did not claim to be God on earth.

34. Christ did not claim to be God on earth. Some people believe that Jesus Christ was God incarnate on earth, but this is not something Christ claimed to be. In fact, Christ went out of his way to make sure that it was understood that God was in heaven and he was nothing in comparison to The Almighty God. Christianity: Matthew 9:16 "And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Matthew 9:17 "And he (Jesus) said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God:" Mark 10:18 "And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God." Jesus doesn't even consider himself worthy enough to be called good in the shadow of one mightier than himself. Jesus considers only one good and that is God in heaven. Mark 11: 25 "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Jesus clearly states that God is not to be found on this earth but is in heaven.

CHRISTIANITY: John 8:28 "Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." Christ states that he does nothing of himself, but he does what God hath taught him, which clearly demonstrates that Christ is separate from God and not the same entity. John 6:38 "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." Again, Christ tells us he came to do God's will not his own, clarifying once more that it was God who sent him. For, John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Christ states that God is a spirit not a physical man like Jesus. Jesus is, in fact, the image of God on this earth, not God come physically to this earth, but the likeness of the attributes of God on this earth. Colossians 1:15 "Who is (Jesus) the image of the invisible God," 2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God is pure perfection, and creatures are but imperfections. For God to descend into the conditions of existence would be the greatest of imperfections; on the contrary, His manifestation, His appearance, His rising are like the reflection of the sun in a clear, pure, polished mirror."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 113)

 **JUDAISM: 1 Kings 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" If the heavens that are so vast cannot contain God how is it that we can believe this tiny earth can contain Him, or for that matter how can we possibly believe that a mere mortal body can contain all the glory of God.**  **Judaism: 2 Chronicles 6:18 "But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!" It is evident according to words of Solomon that a mere mortal human body cannot contain all the glory, all the power and might of God almighty, so Christ was, as Paul states, the image of God on this earth:**  **Christianity: Colossians 1:15 "Who is (Jesus) the image of the invisible God," And when men were seeing Christ they were seeing the image of God on this earth and not God on this earth: For, 1 John 4:12 "no man hath seen God at any time." John states it quite plainly. No man, not John, not any of the other disciples, nor anyone else, no one has seen God at any time. When you looked at Christ you were looking at the image of God not God on this earth. And John was adamant about this, stating it not once but twice in the Holy Writings: John 1:18 "No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Essence of God is incomprehensible, so also are the worlds beyond this, and their condition. It is given to man to obtain knowledge, to attain to great spiritual perfection, to discover hidden truths and to manifest even the attributes of God; but still man cannot comprehend the Essence of God. Where the ever-widening**

circle of man's knowledge meets the spiritual world a Manifestation of God is sent to mirror forth His (God's) splendour."

Is the Divine Manifestation, God?

Yes, and yet not in Essence. A Divine Manifestation is as a mirror reflecting the light of the Sun. The light is the same and yet the mirror is not the Sun. All the Manifestations of God bring the same Light; they only differ in degree, not in reality. The Truth is one. The light is the same though the lamps may be different; we must look at the Light not at the Lamp. If we accept the Light in one, we must accept the Light in all; all agree, because all are the same. The teaching is ever the same, it is only the outward forms that change.

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, pp. 66 and 67)

(See the trinity for more information on this subject).

Despise not the chastening of the LORD.

35. Despise not the chastening of the LORD, For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth in: ✝ Christianity: Revelations 3:19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne." The Lord sends us tests that can appear like The Lord is chastening us, or disciplining us, but this is not a bad thing. The Lord lovest who He correcteth and He correcteth those whom He wishes to strengthen their spirit and draw them closer to His glorious kingdom. ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 8:5 "Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee." Proverbs 3:11 "My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:" Proverbs 3:12 "For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 12:6

“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.” Hebrews 12:7 “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?” Hebrews 12:8 “But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.” Hebrews 12:9 “Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?” Hebrews 12:10 “For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness.”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “We school you with the rod of wisdom and laws, like unto the father who educateth his son, and this for naught but the protection of your own selves and the elevation of your stations. By My life, were ye to discover what We have desired for you in revealing Our holy laws, ye would offer up your very souls for this sacred, this mighty, and most exalted Faith.”**

(Bahá’í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 35)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “When-so-ever a mother seeth that her child hath done well, let her praise and applaud him and cheer his heart; and if the slightest undesirable trait should manifest itself, let her counsel the child and punish him, and use means based on reason, even a slight verbal chastisement should this be necessary. It is not, however, permissible to strike a child, or vilify him, for the child's character will be totally perverted if he be subjected to blows or verbal abuse.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 125)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “God, however, as has been pointed out in the very beginning of these pages, does not only punish the wrongdoings of His children. He chastises because He is just, and He chastens because He loves. Having chastened them, He cannot, in His great mercy, leave them to their fate. Indeed, by the very act of chastening them He prepares them for the mission for which He has created them. ‘My**

calamity is My providence,' He, by the mouth of Bahá'u'lláh, has assured them, 'outwardly it is fire and vengeance, but inwardly it is light and mercy.'"

(Shoghi Effendi, The Promised Day is Come, p. 115)

You will notice that the way we deal with children and discipline has changed with the coming of The Bahá'í Faith, and this is due to our groweth spiritually. We, as a race, need to grow beyond the ways of the barbarous horde of undisciplined brutes and this is why Bahá'u'lláh came to this earth, to educate us.

Coming down on the clouds.

36. Coming down on the clouds. Some people are waiting for the event of Jesus Christ to literally come down from the clouds with a shout. Christianity: Luke 21:27 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Luke 21:31 ".....when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 17:20 "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:" Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." The coming of Christ in the clouds with glory and the coming of the kingdom of God on this earth comes together in one event; but is this really an event we will physically see? The kingdom of God comes not through observation, the kingdom of God is inside of us. It seems, through Christ's very own words, that the kingdom of God is not of a physical nature, but of a spiritual nature. Bearing this in mind, it seems likely that Jesus Christ's coming down on the clouds is also likely to be a spiritual event in nature as well. Christ repeatedly warns his followers to have spiritual eyes open and spiritual ears open to new possibilities Matthew 11:15 "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." Maybe it's time we look at other possibilities to Christ's words?

To start with, let us consider the science behind these statements from Jesus. ✡ Judaism: Jeremiah 4:13 "Behold, he shall come up as clouds," Jeremiah is here stating the obvious to any one that has studied science. Clouds are made up of water vapors that rise. When you are in a fog bank it is because the water vapors are rising up from the ground and not because the vapor is moving towards the ground. That is why you can drive up into the mountains and see the fog or clouds down in the valley. When the water vapor rises it forms clouds that condense into water droplets that form rain which falls down on the ground to start the cycle all over again.

✡ JUDAISM: Zachariah 10:1 "Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain."

Of course, we still have the statements from Daniel, Christ, John, Mark and Zachariah, where we have Christ coming in the clouds with great glory. ✡ Judaism: Daniel 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven," ✝ Christianity: Matthew 24: 30 "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matthew 26:64 "Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Mark 13:26 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." Mark 14:62 "And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Revelations 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

I have recorded these statements from Daniel, Zachariah, John, Mark and Jesus to demonstrate my point. Daniel states that one like the son of man will come with the clouds of heaven and John states in revelations he cometh with clouds. Also, Jesus states repeatedly through his disciples that the one who comes will be coming in the

clouds; nowhere does Christ say anything about coming down on the clouds, and that gives one pause to think and consider?

A cloud is a misty obstacle or a barrier to vision. A person could come in a cloud and you could miss seeing him or you could see him without really seeing him. In the Baha'i Faith we tend to look at things like clouds or mountains used in the bible as barriers that obstruct the spiritual vision and not the visual sight of the individual. This is why the bible can use statements like, all eyes will see one like the son of man coming with the clouds, or in the clouds, but yet people on the ground supposedly seeing, all of this, still manage to reject the promised one yet again! Christianity: Revelations 9:20 "And the rest of the men yet repented not of the works of their hands," Even Paul in one of his statements that apparently defies the rest of the bible in Thessalonians admits we shall be in the clouds not on the clouds. Further more it states in Hebrews: Hebrews 12:14 "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" No man will see the Lord if they are not at peace with others and holy. This is a big obstacle for the people who are expecting to see the lord coming down on the clouds and all eyes seeing him. This isn't so we find in Hebrews. Hebrews clearly tells us that only the holy will see the Lord Hebrews 12:14 ".....holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." So though all eyes are suppose to see him, as John tells us in Revelations, only those people who are holy or spiritual in nature will truly see and recognize the new manifestation of God for what he truly is. The rest of the people will be like those who have eyes to see but don't. Christianity: Matthew 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears....." The majority of the people will not see and recognize God's messenger at first; they will be blind to his advent. (See the rapture for further explanation).

BAHA'I FAITH: "They are waiting for Him to come down from there again, riding upon a cloud, and they imagine that there are clouds in that infinite space and that He will ride thereon and by that means He will descend. Whereas the truth is that a cloud is but vapour that

riseth out of the earth, and it doth not come down from heaven. Rather, the cloud referred to in the Gospel is the human body, so called because the body is as a veil to man, which, even as a cloud, preventeth him from beholding the Sun of Truth that shineth from the horizon of Christ."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 168)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 17:29 "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." Luke 17:30 "Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." The son of man will be revealed not seen coming down on physical clouds, which only obstruct our spiritual view on reality. The same Christ like being in his new spiritual form shall reveal himself from amongst the people where he has been living. This is the real meaning of coming down on the clouds or coming in the clouds.**

Another valid argument a person might want to consider when approaching this statement coming with the clouds from a totally materialistic stand point. When the bible states all eyes shall see him: Revelations 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him," You might want to ask yourself how this is possible? How could Jesus Christ possibly come down on any cloud and all eyes see him on a round sphere of a planet? Now I know some people are going to say we will see him on the television, but if we see it on the television how will we know it's real? Also, what about all the places in the world where there are no televisions or the country is so poor that most of the people living there can't afford to buy televisions? Anyone who has done any serious traveling in this world probably knows the kind of places I am talking about. How are all of these millions and billions of people going to see Jesus when he comes? They can't! It is simple laws of physics. We can't see what is in the sky many miles away from where we are standing let alone see what is happening on the other side of the planet.

This is another good argument that the word play on these statements is not to be taken literally. It is just physically impossible

for this to happen and if something like this was possible who in their right mind would have the nerve to dispute it, let alone the audacity to deny the coming of Jesus as the bible lets us know is going to happen. Christianity: Revelations 9:20 "And the rest of the men yet repented not of the works of their hands," Revelations 9:21 "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts." There would be no freewill involved here. Everyone's freewill would be taken away from them out of sheer terror!

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Judge fairly: Were the prophecies recorded in the Gospel to be literally fulfilled; were Jesus, Son of Mary, accompanied by angels, to descend from the visible heaven upon the clouds; who would dare to disbelieve, who would dare to reject the truth, and wax disdainful? Nay, such consternation would immediately seize all the dwellers of the earth that no soul would feel able to utter a word, much less to reject or accept the truth."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 80)

Finally if we turn to Micah 5:2 we find the location of the city Christ was to be born in, Bethlehem, but if we look further in Micah we also find the return of Jesus is not coming down on clouds but is coming from a certain Location on the earth:
Micah 7:12 "In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain." The Assyrian Empire at one time covered great territory during the time of Micah. The prophet Jeremiah writes: Jeremiah 49:38 "And I will set my throne in Elam," (Persia). Christ's throne will be in Persia a physical place right here on this earth.

And here is something more for thought for those people who still think coming in the clouds is a literal happening; Paul tells us: Christianity: 1 Corinthians 15:40 "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another." 1 Corinthians 15:44 "It is sown a

natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:49 "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." Flesh and blood cannot inherit, or go to, heaven. If this is true then why should we expect flesh and blood to come down from heaven in clouds? The clouds are, as I stated earlier, metaphors for anything that blinds men to the spiritual truths such as the physical form of the promised messenger appearing not as expected by the literal thinkers, but coming from a known place and appearing with a new name which confuses many people thus blocking their vision like a cloud would obstruct the sun from the earth.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Nay, each must see with his own eyes, hear with his own ears and investigate the truth himself in order that he may follow the truth instead of blind acquiescence and imitation of ancestral beliefs."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 246)

Lastly, Jesus puts the idea of descent from the clouds into a more thought provoking perspective: Christianity: John 3:13 "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." Jesus states that not only did he already come down from heaven, during his first coming, but that he is currently in heaven. We know that this can't be meant to be taken literally because, Jesus is right there, on the earth, talking to his disciples and not physically standing in the physical heavens. John 6:38 "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." Jesus clearly states that he came down from heaven which is clearly a spiritual event not intended to be taken as a physical event. Christ was in heaven spiritually because heaven is where his spirit was at the time even though he was physically on the earth talking to his disciples. Luke 17:21 "the kingdom of God is within you." Christ came down from heaven, or his spirit descended from heaven to be with the human body of Christ so Jesus could teach

mankind Gods teachings. It wasn't a physical event, Christ coming down from heaven, it was spiritual and symbolic. Jesus, in reality, came from Bethlehem, from his mother Mary, as the bible clearly tells us; and it's the same bible that tells us where to expect his return, Persia. This again, can be expected to be a symbolic event, or a spiritual descent like his first coming, so again, it will catch mankind unaware.

Conceit and love of self, as in vanity, is prohibited.

37. Conceit and love of self, as in vanity, is prohibited and strongly condemned in the religions of God: These traits, God's religions tell us, are bad for our spiritual growth and create conflict in our interactions with others, in this life. Judaism: Proverbs 26:11 "As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly." Proverbs 26:12 "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him." Proverbs 26:16 "The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason." The sluggard is deceived by his own vanity and blinded by love of self. Proverbs 28:11 "The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out." 12:16 "Be not wise in your own conceits!" Christianity: 2 Timothy 3:1 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." 3:2 "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy," 3:3 "Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good," 3:4 "Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;" 3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Peter 2:18 "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness." 2 Peter 2:19 "They themselves are the servants of corruption:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know verily that Knowledge is of two kinds: Divine and Satanic. The one welleth out from the fountain of divine

inspiration; the other is but a reflection of vain and obscure thoughts. The source of the former is God Himself; the motive-force of the latter the whisperings of selfish desire. The one is guided by the principle: 'Fear ye God; God will teach you; the other is but a confirmation of the truth:' 'Knowledge is the most grievous veil between man and his Creator.' The former bringeth forth the fruit of patience, of longing desire, of true understanding, and love; whilst the latter can yield naught but arrogance, vainglory and conceit."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 69)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Without cooperation and reciprocal attitude the individual member of human society remains self-centered, uninspired by altruistic purposes, limited and solitary in development like the animal and plant organisms of the lower kingdoms."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 338)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Just as the earth attracts everything to the center of gravity, and every object thrown upward into space will come down, so also material ideas and worldly thoughts attract man to the center of self. Anger, passion, ignorance, prejudice, greed, envy, covetousness, jealousy and suspicion prevent man from ascending to the realms of holiness, imprisoning him in the claws of self and the cage of egotism."**

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 546)

Cleanliness is next to Godliness.

38. Cleanliness is next to Godliness the religions of God tell us: Cleanliness is not just words to be spoken without regards for action on our part. The Bahá'í Writings point us in that direction of staying clean, because it will help us feel better about ourselves and

cleanliness opens up a clearer channel between ourselves and our Creator. Judaism: Genesis 35:2 "Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:" Deuteronomy 23:10 "If there be among you any man, that is not clean by reason of uncleanness that chanceth him by night, then shall he go abroad out of the camp, he shall not come within the camp:" Deuteronomy 23:11 "But it shall be, when evening cometh on, he shall wash himself with water: and when the sun is down, he shall come into the camp again." Isaiah 1:16 "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes; cease to do evil; 1:17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." Christianity: 2 Corinthians 6:17 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." 2 Corinthians 6:18 "And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 7:1 "Dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." James 4:8 "Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

BAHA'I FAITH: "It hath been enjoined upon you to pare your nails, to bathe yourselves each week in water that covereth your bodies, and to clean yourselves with whatsoever ye have formerly employed. Take heed lest through negligence ye fail to observe that which hath been prescribed unto you by Him Who is the Incomparable, the Gracious."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 57)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The believers are exhorted in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas to bathe regularly, to wear clean clothes and generally to be the essence of cleanliness and refinement."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 236)

God is close to man.

39. God is close to man. One of the things the religions of God tell us is that God is ever close to man, even though we are far spiritually away from Him by the worldly deeds of our own actions: The religions of God tell us that God is so close to man that He can be found within us even though we are unaware of it. Bahá'í Faith: **"The All-Glorious and Almighty God, within thy proper self and is wrapped up within thee." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 152) "O SON OF BEING! Thy heart is My home; sanctify it for My descent. Thy spirit is My place of revelation; cleanse it for My manifestation." (The Arabic Hidden Words verse quotation 59)**

We find in the Bahá'í Writings that God is closer to us then we are to ourselves. Christianity also tells us that God is ever close to us even if we can't tell it. (See God is found inside of us for more information) Judaism: **Isaiah 46:13 "I bring near My righteousness; it shall not be far off, and My salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel My glory." Isaiah 51:5 "My righteousness is near; My salvation is gone forth, and Mine arms shall judge the people;" Isaiah 50:7 "For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. He is near that justifieth me;"** Christianity: **Acts 17:27 "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though He be not far from every one of us:"**

BAHA'I FAITH: **"Be thou not sad, for God is near to thee." "We are closer to man than his life-vein."**

(Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v3, p. 557 and Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 185)

Confess the greatness of God.

40. Confess the greatness of God. One of the things God asks man to do in His religious writings is to witness to each other and confess the greatness of the Lord: This is a part of all the religions of God. We need to bear witness to one another and tell of the greatness of God, which in turn, will educate our fellow men and women and form a bond with those who believe and bring us all closer to God. ✝ Christianity: Matthew 10:32 "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 10:33 "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." Luke 12:8 "Also I say unto you, whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:" Luke 12:9 "But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God." Acts 10:46 "For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God." ✡ Judaism: Tobias 6. "If ye turn to Him with your whole heart, and with your whole mind, and deal uprightly before Him, then will He turn unto you, and will not hide His face from you. Therefore see what He will do with you, and confess Him with your whole mouth, and praise the Lord of might, and extol the everlasting King. In the land of my captivity do I praise Him, and declare His might and majesty to a sinful nation. O ye sinners, turn and do justice before Him: who can tell if He will accept you, and have mercy on you?" Tobias 7. "I will extol my God, and my soul shall praise the King of heaven, and shall rejoice in His greatness." 2 Chronicles 6:24 "And if thy people Israel be put to the worse before the enemy, because they have sinned against Thee; and shall return and confess Thy name, and pray and make supplication before Thee in this house;" 2 Chronicles 6:25 "Then hear Thou from the heavens, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which Thou gavest to them and to their fathers." Job 36:22 "Behold, God exalteth by His power: who teacheth like Him?" Job 36:23 "Who hath enjoined Him His way? or who can say, Thou hast wrought iniquity?" Job 36:24 "Remember that thou magnify His work, which men behold."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF BEING! Make mention of Me on My earth, that in My heaven I may remember thee, thus shall Mine eyes and thine be solaced."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "I entreat Thee to enable me at all times and under all conditions to remember Thee, to magnify Thy Name and to serve Thy Cause."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 113)

We need to be content.

41. Content, we need to be content with our lives. We need to learn to be content with the will of God in our lives, and be content with that which God has ordained for us in this life, for therein lies the way that leads us to peacefulness of the mind and ultimately to contentment in our soul. Christianity: Philippians 4:11 "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Judaism: Job 6:28 "Now therefore be content,"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be content, O people, with that which God hath desired for you and predestined unto you."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He should be content with little, and be freed from all inordinate desire."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, pp. 103, 265)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 6:8 "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." Judaism: Judges 19:6 "Be content, I pray thee."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It behoveth thee to be content with the Will of God, and a true and loving and trusted friend to all the peoples of the earth, without any exceptions whatever."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 25)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 13:5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Sirach 29:22 "Better is the life of a poor man in a mean cottage, than delicate fare in another man's house. Be it little or much, hold thee contented, that thou hear not the reproach of thy house." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer of the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 284)

Control of your actions, keep check over your own soul.

42. Control of your actions. One of the teachings of the religion of God is that man is to have control over his own self and to keep guard over his own soul. This is one of the things that sets those followers of religion apart from the rest of the world, because it is the law of God that controls their actions and not just the law of mankind: When we keep reign over our actions the world runs more smoothly and when we keep reign over our own soul our spirit grows more steadfast in the works of God and we come closer to being more like our Creator; which is an important factor in God's training of us. Judaism: Proverbs 16:32 "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." Proverbs 25:28 "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." 1 Kings 2:3 "Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed." 4 Ezra 7:35 "And the work shall follow, and the reward shall be shewed, and the good deeds shall be of force, and wicked deeds shall bear no rule. (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Christianity: 1 Corinthians 7:37 "He that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will." 15:58 "always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 9:8 "Abound to every good work: 9:9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever." Colossians 3:15 "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts," 1 Timothy 3:5 "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, (himself) how shall he take care of the church of God?" 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" 3:17 "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "How wonderful it is! How powerful the spirit of man, while his body is so weak! If the susceptibilities of the spirit control him, there is no created being more heroic, more undaunted than man; but if physical forces dominate, you cannot find a more cowardly or fearful object because the body is so weak and incapable. Therefore, it is divinely intended that the spiritual susceptibilities of man should gain precedence and overrule his physical forces. In this way he becomes fitted to dominate the human world by his nobility and stand forth fearless and free, endowed with the attributes of eternal life."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 264)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "That which beseemeth man is submission unto such restraints as will protect him from his own ignorance, and guard him against the harm of the mischief-maker." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 335) "The master-key of self-mastery is self-forgetfulness. The road to the palace of life is through the path of renunciation." (Baha'i Scriptures p. 548)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Make ye then a mighty effort, that the purity and sanctity which, above all else, are cherished by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, shall distinguish the people of Baha; that in every kind of excellence the people of God shall surpass all other human beings; that both outwardly and inwardly they shall prove superior to the rest; that for purity, immaculacy, refinement, and the preservation of health, they shall be leaders in the vanguard of those who know. And that by their freedom from enslavement, their knowledge, their self-control, they shall be first among the pure, the free and the wise."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 150)

There should be no forced compulsion to belong to a religion!

43. <u>There should be no forced compulsion to belong to a religion! This is not just a pious thought, but a statement of fact made in the true religious writings of God</u>: We are not permitted to use force to convert adherents to our religion, as has been done in the past. If those people doing these torturous compulsions on others, to believe like they do, really understood their religious faith they would not have done the things they did, and are now doing still to this very day. ✡ <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Joshua</u> 24:15 "If it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, <u>choose you this day whom ye will serve</u>; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." ✝ <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Galatians</u> 5:1 "Stand fast therefore <u>in the liberty where with Christ hath made us free</u>....." 1 <u>John</u> 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:" 1 <u>Thessalonians</u> 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

In other words, we are being told by Paul and John that we should investigate what we are being told and not believe in something just because we are told this is the way. Also, since we are being told to look at and investigate the word of God independently, we should also have the common courtesy not to try and force our opinion on somebody else; that is not the way God is wanting His word to be spread according to Paul, John and Joshua. We are supposed exercise our own freewill when it comes to the writings of God. God wants us to make our own choice as to whether we will serve God; this is non-negotiable! ✡ <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Proverbs</u> 4:25 "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee." <u>Proverbs</u> 4:26 "<u>Ponder the path of thy feet</u>, and let all thy ways be established." We are to use reason and choose the path our feet will travel of our own freewill, not by compulsion from somebody else. ✝ <u>Christianity</u>: <u>John</u> 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: <u>for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust</u>." In other words, God will abide by our decision,

and He will help us in whatever decision we make. So again there is to be no forced compulsion to believe.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Each must see with his own eyes, hear with his own ears and investigate the truth himself in order that he may follow the truth instead of blind acquiescence and imitation of ancestral beliefs."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 246)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Man is not intended to see through the eyes of another, hear through another's ears nor comprehend with another's brain."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 76)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He must not be an imitator or blind follower of any soul. He must not rely implicitly upon the opinion of any man without investigation; nay, each soul must seek intelligently and independently, arriving at a real conclusion and bound only by that reality."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity)

The earth cannot contain the Lord.

44. The earth cannot contain the Lord. If the heavens that are so vast cannot contain God how is it that we can believe this tiny earth can contain Him, or for that matter how can we possibly believe that a mere mortal body can contain all the glory of God. Judaism: 1 Kings 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" 2 Chronicles 2:6 "But who is able to build him an

house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Him? who am I then, that I should build Him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?" 2 Chronicles 6:18 "But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; how much less this house which I have built!" Jeremiah 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD."

 **CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 1:21 "Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." Ephesians 4:4 "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;" 4:5 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." God is far above this world, this universe, above any power, might and dominion we might think of. He is far above His creation whether we think of this world or the next world. God is far above and beyond everything. Whatever we might think or conceive God is beyond it. No comparison is there to God and His creation, so far above and beyond is He, and this is told to us in the Bahá'í writings of God as well.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God contains all: He cannot be contained. That which contains is superior to that which is contained. The whole is greater than its parts."**

"Things which are understood by men cannot be outside their capacity for understanding, so that it is impossible for the heart of man to comprehend the nature of the Majesty of God. Our imagination can only picture that which it is able to create."

"That which we imagine, is not the Reality of God; He, the Unknowable, the Unthinkable, is far beyond the highest conception of man."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 23)

The covenant of God with man.

45. The covenant of God with man. The covenant is an agreement found not only in the Bahá'í Faith and the Holy Bible, but the covenant is found in all the great world religions. The covenant is a binding agreement between God and man; if you do things this way, I will do this for you. The covenant God has made with man, David tells us, is forever: ✡ Judaism: Psalms 111:9 "He sent redemption unto his people: He hath commanded His covenant for ever: holy and reverend is His name." And also in Hebrews we find again the covenant is ever lasting: ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant." The covenant God has made with man is an everlasting covenant so the covenant is something that can be followed down through the ages, in all the religions, if we look for it.

✡ JUDAISM: Genesis 6:18 "But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee." Genesis 9:1 "And God blessed Noah and his sons," Genesis 9:9 "And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;" Genesis 9:13 "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth." Genesis 15:18 "In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:" Genesis 17:1 "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." Genesis 17:2 "And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly." Genesis 17:3 "And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying," Genesis 17:4 "As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shall be a father of many nations." Genesis 17:5 "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee." Genesis 17:6 "And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee." Genesis 17:7 "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for

an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee." Genesis 17:8 "And I will give unto thee and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." Genesis 17:9 "And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations." Genesis 17:10 "This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised." Genesis 17:11 "And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Holy Land was conquered by the power of the Covenant of God with Abraham, and the glory of the Solomonic wisdom and sovereignty dawned."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 271)

 **JUDAISM: Exodus 2:24 "And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob." Exodus 19:5 "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:" Exodus 24:7 "And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient." Exodus 34:28 "And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments." Deuteronomy 5:1 "And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them." Deuteronomy 5:2 "The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "His Holiness Moses made a covenant concerning the Promised One, i.e. His Holiness Christ, and announced the good news of His Manifestation to the world. His Holiness Christ made a**

covenant concerning the Paraclete and gave the tidings of His coming."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 358)

 **JUDAISM: Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts."**  **Christianity: Luke 1:70 "As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:" Luke 1:72 "To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;" Luke 1:73 "The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The dogmas and blind imitations which gradually obscured the reality of the religion of God proved to be Israel's destructive influences causing the expulsion of these chosen people from the Holy Land of their Covenant and promise."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 273)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 3:25 "Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed." Romans 11:27 "For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins." Galatians 3:17 "And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect." Galatians 3:18 "For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise." Galatians 3:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Today, every wise, vigilant and foresighted person is awakened, and to him are unveiled the mysteries of the future which show that nothing save the power of the Covenant is able to stir and move the heart of humanity, just as the New and Old Testaments propounded throughout all regions the Cause of Christ and were the pulsating power in the body of the human world."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 223)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Galatians 12:24 "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel." Galatians 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"**

My intention in quoting all of these verses from the New and Old Testament is to affirm that God makes covenants, or agreements, with mankind at different intervals throughout time to help promote the well-being and advancement of the human race on this earth. As has occurred before the coming of Christ, Jesus brought a new covenant to mankind which renewed the agreement God had with mankind to better prepare man for what lay ahead. This process of renewal of the holy covenant has continued with the advent of Baha'u'llah and the Baha'i Faith bringing to us a new agreement for this day and time that is to help us into a new and golden age of mankind.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O ye beloved of God, know that steadfastness and firmness in this new and wonderful Covenant is indeed the spirit that quickeneth the hearts which are overflowing with the love of the Glorious Lord; verily, it is the power which penetrates into the hearts of the people of the world!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 357)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The light hath shone forth from the horizon of Revelation, and the whole earth hath been illumined at the coming of Him Who is the Lord of the Day of the Covenant!"**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 119)

God renews His covenant with man when needed.

46. God renews His covenant with man when needed.

The covenant of God with mankind is an everlasting ever evolving, covenant, ever moving man closer to God's vision for mankind on this earth.  **Judaism: Genesis 17:18 "And Abraham, I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant," 1 Chronicles 16:15 "Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a thousand generations;" 16:16 "Even of the covenant which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac;" 16:17 "And hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant,"**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant," Hebrews 13:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."**

The life of man is ever evolving ever moving forward; this is the way God designed us. Does it make any sense that God's word and covenant to man would not keep pace with the advances man makes both materially and spiritually? If we look into the bible and search we find that the covenant God has made with man is ever advancing ever moving forward, not only keeping pace with the development of mankind, but instigating the development of mankind as well. (See the covenant of God with man for more information)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 8:6 "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises." Hebrews 8:7 "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second." Hebrews 8:8 "For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:" Hebrews 8:9 "Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord." Hebrews 8:10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:" Hebrews 8:13 "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." Hebrews 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;" Hebrews 12:24 "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Today, every wise, vigilant and foresighted person is awakened, and to him are unveiled the mysteries of the future which show that nothing save the power of the Covenant is able to stir and move the heart of humanity, just as the New and Old Testaments propounded throughout all regions the Cause of Christ and were the pulsating power in the body of the human world."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 223)

With each new messenger a new covenant is revealed that brings man one step closer to understanding what God's will is for man. This is also true for today with the advent of the Bahá'í Faith. Today there is a new covenant God has made with mankind through Bahá'u'lláh. Today man is, again, required think for himself to better understand

what God wants for us. Today we are again required to study God's new covenant so we can better build a future for the world of mankind.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O ye beloved of God, know that steadfastness and firmness in this new and wonderful Covenant is indeed the spirit that quickeneth the hearts which are overflowing with the love of the Glorious Lord; verily, it is the power which penetrates into the hearts of the people of the world!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 357)

Create in me a pure heart.

47. Create in me a pure heart.  **Judaism: Psalms 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Create in me a pure heart, O my God, and renew a tranquil conscience within me, O my Hope! Through the spirit of power confirm Thou me in Thy Cause, O my Best-Beloved, and by the light of Thy glory reveal unto me Thy path, O Thou the Goal of my desire! Through the power of Thy transcendent might lift me up unto the heaven of Thy holiness, O Source of my being, and by the breezes of Thine eternity gladden me, O Thou Who art my God! Let Thine everlasting melodies breathe tranquility on me, O my Companion, and let the riches of Thine ancient countenance deliver me from all except Thee, O my Master, and let the tidings of the revelation of Thine incorruptible Essence bring me joy, O Thou Who art the most manifest of the manifest and the most hidden of the hidden!"**

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 248)

God is the creator of the universe.

48. Creator. The religions of God all agree that God is the creator of the universe and all that is therein: For God to be a creator there must be a creation or God would not be a creator: Bahá'í Faith: "His name, the Creator, presupposeth a creation, even as His title, the Lord of Men, must involve the existence of a servant." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 150) "otherwise, these would be empty and impossible names." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 271) "The Creator always had a creation." (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 281)

JUDAISM: Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Isaiah 45:18 "For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else." Amos 4:13 "For, lo, He that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is His thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is His name." Jeremiah 10:12 "He hath made the earth by his power, He hath established the world by His wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by His discretion."

CHRISTIANITY: Acts 4:24 "Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:" Acts 14:15 "The living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:" Acts 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" 17:25 "Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;" Colossians 1:16 "For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him:" 1:17 "And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God created all. He gives sustenance to all. He guides and trains all under the shadow of His bounty. We must follow the example God Himself gives us, and do away with all disputations and quarrels."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 38)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Wash your hearts from all earthly defilements, and hasten to enter the Kingdom of your Lord, the Creator of earth and heaven, Who caused the world to tremble and all its peoples to wail, except them that have renounced all things and clung to that which the Hidden Tablet hath ordained."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 210)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Verily Thou art the Powerful, the Most High, the Mighty and Omnipotent, and the Creator of the earth and heaven, and verily there is no God but Thee, the Lord of the Manifest Signs!"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 390)

Darkness and light symbolic much of the time.

49. Darkness and light symbolic for good and evil, knowledge and ignorance. In the Bahá'í Writings light and darkness are often used to symbolize good and evil, spiritual and material, knowledge and ignorance, spiritual life and spiritual death etc.... This type of symbolism is also found in the writings of the bible if we look for it.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "You know which path to follow: you cannot be mistaken, for there's a great distinction between God and evil, between Light and darkness, Truth and falsehood, Love and hatred,**

Generosity and meanness, Education and ignorance, Faith in God and superstition, good Laws and unjust laws."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 64)

a. Good and evil.

Judaism: Proverbs 4:19 "The way of the wicked is as darkness:" Isaiah 5:20 "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness;" Christianity: Luke 11:34 "The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:35 "Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Light is good, most good."

(H.M. Balyuzi, Abdu'l-Baha - The Centre of the Covenant, p. 157)

CHRISTIANITY: John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 3:20 "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." John 3:21 "But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." 1 John 1:5 "This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:6 "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:" 1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

BAHA'I FAITH: "I hope that the darkness of evil suggestions shall be dispersed and that the veil of uncertainty shall be torn asunder; that the beauty of truth may become manifest with glory and the light of mercy become radiant."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 56)

CHRISTIANITY: Acts 26:17 "Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee," Acts 26:18 "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Ephesians 5:8 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:" Ephesians 5:9 "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth)" 1 Thessalonians 5:5 "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." 1 Thessalonians 5:6 "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." 1 Thessalonians 5:7 "For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Light is good in whatsoever lamp it is burning!"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 136)

b. Knowledge and ignorance.

Judaism: Psalms 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalms 119:130 "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Christianity: John 1:4 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." John 1:5 "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

BAHA'I FAITH: "I pray God to kindle and light the lamp of knowledge in the glass of thy heart, so that it may shine upon all parts of the world."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 231)

CHRISTIANITY: John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

BAHA'I FAITH: "He brought the light of guidance to the world; He kindled the fire of love and revealed the great reality of the True Beloved.... Then was the door of the Kingdom set wide and the light of a new heaven on earth revealed unto seeing eyes."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 36)

CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 4:18 "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:" Ephesians 4:19 "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." 2 Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The spiritually learned are lamps of guidance among the nations, and stars of good fortune shining from the horizons of humankind."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 33)

c. Spiritual life and spiritual death.

Judaism: Psalms 56:13 "For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?" Isaiah 9:2 "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Christianity: Luke 1:78 "Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us," Luke 1:79 "To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

BAHA'I FAITH: "If new light does not come, the darkness of death will envelop the earth."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 279)

CHRISTIANITY: John 1:4 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Do not associate with the wicked, because the company of the wicked changeth the light of life into the fire of remorse."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 434)

CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 5:14 "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." 2 Timothy 1:10 "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Pray that God may assist in this heavenly undertaking, that the world of mankind shall be saved from the ordeals of ignorance, blindness and spiritual death. Then will you behold light upon light, joy upon joy, absolute happiness reigning everywhere, the people of the religions consorting together in fragrance and felicity, this world in its maturity becoming the reflection of the eternal Kingdom and this terrestrial abode of man the very paradise of God. Pray for this! Pray for this!"

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 441)

d. Love and enmity. Judaism: Isaiah 60:19 "The LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light." (love) Christianity: 2 Corinthians 4:6 "For God, hath shined in our hearts," 1 John 1:5 "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." (God is light and God is love.)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "That light is the Love of God,"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v3, p. 653)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." 1 John 4:16 "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." Since God is both light and love then love is light because God is both light and love. Therefore, enmity would be darkness.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Love is light in whatsoever house it may shine and enmity is darkness in whatsoever abode it dwell."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section)

e. Actions we perform lead to an enlightened soul or condemn us to damnation.

 **Christianity: John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 3:20 "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." John 3:21 "But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Romans 13:12 "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whosoever has a pure heart and renders good deeds is nearer to God." "I, therefore, pray to God that you may be strengthened in good deeds."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, pp. 300, 457)

f. Spiritual versus material. **Judaism: 4 Ezra 14:20 "Behold, Lord, I will go, as thou hast commanded me, and reprove the people which are present: but they that shall be born afterward, who shall admonish them? thus the world is set in darkness, and they that dwell therein are without light." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Christianity: Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 5:8 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:" 5:9 "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)" 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord." Ephesians 4:18 "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:" Ephesians 4:19 "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."**

BAHA'I FAITH: "The tree of good and evil signifies the human world; for the spiritual and divine world is purely good and absolutely luminous, but in the human world light and darkness, good and evil, exist as opposite conditions."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 123)

Death and life and resurrection.

50. Death and life and resurrection. In the bible death is often symbolized to mean spiritual death, and life is often used to symbolize spiritual life, and not necessarily the life and death of the physical body. Judaism: Deuteronomy 30:15 "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;" Therefore, when Jesus or other people in the bible talk about the resurrection and the raising of the dead they are often referring to the raising of the spiritually dead to the ranks of the spiritually living. Psalms 30:3 "O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive," Isaiah

26:19 "Dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Just as the surface of the material world becomes dark and dreary, the soil dormant, the trees naked and bare and no beauty or freshness remain to cheer the darkness and desolation, so the winter of the spiritual cycle witnesses the death and disappearance of divine growth and extinction of the light and love of God. But again the cycle begins and a new springtime appears. In it the former springtime has returned, the world is resuscitated, illumined and attains spirituality; religion is renewed and reorganized, hearts are turned to God, the summons of God is heard and life is again bestowed upon man."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 255)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 21:16 "The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead."**  **Christianity: Romans 6:13 "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead." Ephesians 5:14 "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." Much of mankind was living in a state of spiritual death in days of Moses and Christ. What was needed was the revitalizing powers of the word of God that Moses and Christ brought to mankind to help revitalize the human spirit and bestow spiritual life on the soul of mankind, for the real soul of man is spirit created in God's image.**  **Judaism: Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:" Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." And since God is spirit:**  **Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit." We are also spirit (see man's spirit or soul created in God's image for more information). Since we are created spiritual beings in essence we must worship God in spiritual ways which brings spiritual life to our souls, while living only for the material pleasures of this life leads to spiritual death.**  **Christianity: 1 Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in**

pleasure is dead while she liveth.” It is our own actions in this life that leads to our spiritual demise: Judaism: Genesis 20:3 “But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife.” So, our actions determine our spiritual life and death: Proverbs 11:19 “As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.” Righteousness leads to life or spiritual life, evilness, on the other hand, leads to our death or our spiritual death. Christ also separates the living from the dead by their actions: Christianity: Matthew 8:22 “But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.” Jesus considers us to be living if we follow him and do his teachings all else are considered dead or spiritually dead, though they appear to be alive and well physically.

BAHA’I FAITH: “Pray that God may assist in this heavenly undertaking, that the world of mankind shall be saved from the ordeals of ignorance, blindness and spiritual death. Then will you behold light upon light, joy upon joy, absolute happiness reigning everywhere, the people of the religions consorting together in fragrance and felicity, this world in its maturity becoming the reflection of the eternal Kingdom and this terrestrial abode of man the very paradise of God.”

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 441)

JUDAISM: Ezekiel 33:11 “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” Ezekiel reiterates to us that our actions in this life determine if our soul is considered alive or dead to God. Ezekiel 18:26 “When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.” Ezekiel 18:27 “When the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.” Ezekiel tells us that we can bring life to our soul from spiritual death just by turning away from wickedness and following the

teachings of God. Christianity: Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Although physically and mentally alive he is spiritually dead."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 58)

CHRISTIANITY: Romans 8:10 "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." Romans 8:6 "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Romans 11:15 "For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Souls deprived of that spirit are accounted as dead, though they are possessed of the human spirit. His Holiness Jesus Christ has pronounced them dead inasmuch as they have no portion of the divine spirit. He says: 'Let the dead bury their dead.' In another instance He declares: 'That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.' By this He means that souls though alive in the human kingdom are nevertheless dead if devoid of this particular spirit of divine quickening. They have not partaken of the divine life of the higher kingdom; for the soul which partakes of the power of the divine spirit is verily living."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 261)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 23:27 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." Matthew 23:28 "Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." The scribes and Pharisees, of Jesus time, were supposed to be the authorities on God's word on the earth to man appearing to be holy and righteous. But it was the scribes and

Pharisees that clamored the most eventually causing the death of Jesus and the denial of Christ's teachings by the multitudes of the people. To outward appearance these men were the epitome of virtue and righteousness, but inwardly these men were devoid of the spark of spiritual life, so Christ considered them devoid of life. Matthew 28:4 "And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men."

BAHA'I FAITH: "It is evident therefore according to His Holiness that the human spirit which is not fortified by the presence of the Holy Spirit is dead and in need of resurrection by that divine power; otherwise though materially advanced to high degrees man cannot attain full and complete progress."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 241)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 22:31 "But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying," Matthew 22:32 "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Luke 20:37 "Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." 20:38 "For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Pray that God may assist in this heavenly undertaking, that the world of mankind shall be saved from the ordeals of ignorance, blindness and spiritual death."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 441)

CHRISTIANITY: Mark 12:27 "He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living:" Luke 15:24 "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He was dark and becomes luminous, he was ignorant and becomes wise, he was neglectful and becomes vigilant, he was asleep and becomes awakened, he was dead and becomes living, he was blind and becomes a seer, he was deaf and becomes a hearer, he was earthly and becomes heavenly, he was material and becomes spiritual."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 323)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 15:32 "It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found." 2 Timothy 2:11 ".....For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Likewise if we are born from the matrix of this physical and phenomenal environment into the freedom and loftiness of the life and vision spiritual, we shall consider this mortal existence and its blessings as worthless by comparison."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 266)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 5:21 "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will." John 5:25 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." God brings life to the spiritually dead by quickening the spirit of man. John tells us that when the spiritually dead hear the voice of Christ, which is the word of God, they that really listen will become spiritually alive. John 11:25 "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Let us turn toward the spiritual sun and acquire a light which will render the world luminous, so that we may be freed**

from matter and acquire celestial qualities, that this limited life may merge into the eternal."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 59)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 4:1 "And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them," 4:2 "Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead." The preaching of word of Jesus can resurrect the dead, that is quicken the people that are spiritually dead to become resurrected and become spiritually alive in God. Acts 10:42 "And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "They will ascertain the truth that the purpose of religion is the acquisition of praiseworthy virtues, betterment of morals, spiritual development of mankind, the real life and divine bestowals."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 15)

 **CHRISTIANITY: again: 1 Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." Here Paul plainly says it. Those people that live for the pleasures of this life are considered dead by God even though they are living and breathing. Romans 8:5 "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." Romans 8:6 "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Romans 8:7 "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and in the Holy Books of other religions, the word 'dead' is often used to refer to those devoid of faith and spiritual life."**

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 3, p. 217)

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 2:17 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." One must live the life through their actions; it is not good enough just to say we believe, one must demonstrate they believe through their actions. James 2:20 "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." Here again it clearly states the body without the spirit is quite dead in the eyes of God.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Strive therefore, with heart and soul, to follow the precepts of the Blessed Perfection, and rest assured that if ye succeed in living the life he marks out for you, Eternal Life and everlasting joy in the Heavenly Kingdom will be yours, and celestial sustenance will be sent to strengthen you all your days."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 113)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 4:6 "For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit." It clearly states that the gospel was also preached to the dead, those living in the flesh but dead to the spirit, that they may become living spirits in the ways of God. John 5:24 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." Christ tells us that he who really hears the word of God will pass from death unto life signifying that they were spiritually dead before and now, once they hear and accept God's word they are spiritually alive, resurrected from the dead, Luke 20:37 "Now that the dead are raised." For, 1 Corinthians 15:40 "There are also celestial**

bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another." 1 Corinthians 15:44 "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." Clearly we have two forms the natural form or the physical body and the spiritual form or the spiritual body. 1 Corinthians 15:49 "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood (the physical body) cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." Only the spiritual form or the spiritual body of man can inherit a life in heaven.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Heaven is the state of perfection, and Hell that of imperfection; Heaven is harmony with God's will and with our fellows, and Hell is the want of such harmony; Heaven is the condition of spiritual life, and Hell that of spiritual death."

(Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 190)

(See the rapture for more information).

We should not be afraid of death.

51. We should not be afraid of death. Judaism: Ecclesiastes 7:1 "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth." Death is not something we should be afraid of in this world. For those individuals who are right with God death is in fact a messenger of joy to those people longing for the next life: Psalms 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF THE SUPREME! I have made death a messenger of joy to thee. Wherefore dost thou grieve? I made the light to shed on thee its splendor. Why dost thou veil thyself therefrom?"

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

JUDAISM: Ecclesiastics 7:8 "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Were ye but to open your eyes, ye would, in truth, prefer a myriad griefs unto this joy, and would count death itself better than this life."

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

With the spiritual decline of true religious belief God sends another manifestation to mankind.

52. Spiritual decline. The religions of God tell us that with the decline of spiritualism on the face of the earth God sends another manifestation of Himself to begin the revitalization of the faith of man on the earth all over again. The Apostle Paul further tells us that without there first being a falling away of the God fearing and the rise of corruption on the earth God wouldn't send another messenger, because one would not be needed: Christianity: 2 Thessalonians 2:3 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" Judaism: Malachi 2:17 "Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied Him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?" Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts." Malachi 3:2 "But who may abide the day of his

coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:" Malachi 3:3 "And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "From the days of Adam until today, the religions of God have been made manifest, one following the other, and each one of them fulfilled its due function, revived mankind, and provided education and enlightenment. They freed the people from the darkness of the world of nature and ushered them into the brightness of the Kingdom. As each succeeding Faith and Law became revealed it remained for some centuries a richly fruitful tree and to it was committed the happiness of humankind. However, as the centuries rolled by, it aged, it flourished no more and put forth no fruit, wherefore was it then made young again."**

"The religion of God is one religion, but it must ever be renewed. Moses, for example, was sent forth to man and He established a Law, and the Children of Israel, through that Mosaic Law, were delivered out of their ignorance and came into the light; they were lifted up from their abjectness and attained to a glory that fadeth not. Still, as the long years wore on, that radiance passed by, that splendour set, that bright day turned to night; and once that night grew triply dark, the star of the Messiah dawned, so that again a glory lit the world."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 51)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O ye respected souls! From the continual imitation of ancient and wornout ways, the world had grown dark as darksome night. The fundamentals of the divine Teachings had passed from memory; their pith and heart had been totally forgotten, and the people were holding on to husks. The nations had, like tattered garments long outworn, fallen into a pitiful condition."**

"Out of this pitch blackness there dawned the morning splendor of the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. He hath dressed the world with a

garment new and fair, and that new garment is the principles which have come down from God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 252)

Don't be of those whose words exceed their deeds.

53. Don't be of those whose words exceed their deeds and don't be of those whose words differ from their deeds. **Christianity: Matthew 23:1 "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples," Matthew 23:2 "Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:" Matthew 23:3 "All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not." In the writings of the bible and the Bahá'í Faith we are warned not to be of those who's words differ from their deeds. Luke 12:1 "Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." John 10:37 "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not." 1 Corinthians 9:14 "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."**

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF SPIRIT! Know thou of a truth: He that biddeth men be just and himself committeth iniquity is not of Me, even though he bear My name."

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

CHRISTIANITY: James 1:22 "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:23 "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:" James 1:24 "For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." James 1:25 "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." We are warned, in the

Bahá'í Writings, to not be of whose words exceed their deeds least we be dammed.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The essence of faith is fewness of words and abundance of deeds; he whose words exceed his deeds, know verily his death is better than his life."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 156)

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 2:12 "So speak ye, and so do," 1 John 3:18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." Galatians 5:25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."**  **Judaism: Deuteronomy 23:23 "That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform;" Numbers 32:24 "do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth." Proverbs 11:3 "The integrity of the upright shall guide," 20:7 "The just man walketh in his integrity (in his good works): his children are blessed after him." 24:12 "And shall not He render to every man according to his works?" 16:3 "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established." 4 Ezra 7:35 "And the work shall follow, and the reward shall be shewed, and the good deeds shall be of force," "For the just, which have many good works laid up with Thee, shall out of their own deeds receive reward." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF MY HANDMAID! Guidance hath ever been given by words, and now it is given by deeds. Every one must show forth deeds that are pure and holy, for words are the property of all alike, whereas such deeds as these belong only to Our loved ones. Strive then with heart and soul to distinguish yourselves by your deeds. In this wise We counsel you in this holy and resplendent tablet."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

Do good deeds and live a loving, righteous, virtuous life.

54. Do good deeds and live a loving, righteous, virtuous life, not because the laws of religion tell you to, but because you love God and you want to do these things out of your love for God and that which is His: We should want to do good things out of our love for God and out of love for the beings He created. This is what He wants for us; this is what His writings tell us. Judaism: Numbers 32:24 "Do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth." 1 Samuel 15:22 "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." Proverbs 21:3 "To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice." Proverbs 16:3 "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established." Deuteronomy 23:23 "That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform;" Christianity: 1 John 3:18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he (Jesus) walked." Ephesians 6:6 "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;" We are not to do things for each other because it is what we want men to see of us, but because we love God and we love following His ways. 1 Corinthians 9:14 "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The highest righteousness of all is for blessed souls to take hold of the hands of the helpless and deliver them out of their ignorance and abasement and poverty, and with pure motives, and only for the sake of God, to arise and energetically devote themselves to the service of the masses, forgetting their own worldly advantage and working only to serve the general good."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 103)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF MY HANDMAID! Guidance hath ever been given by words, and now it is given by deeds. Every one must show forth deeds that are pure and holy, for words are the property of all alike, whereas such deeds as these belong only to Our loved ones. Strive then with heart and soul to distinguish yourselves by your deeds. In this wise We counsel you in this holy and resplendent tablet."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF SPIRIT! Know thou of a truth: He that biddeth men be just and himself committeth iniquity is not of Me, even though he bear My name."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

God only desires good for us.

55. God only desires good for us. Christianity: Luke 12:31 "Seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you." Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Judaism: Ecclesiastes 3:12 "I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life." Ecclesiastes 3:13 "And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God." Tobias 19. "Bless the Lord thy God always, and desire of Him that thy ways may be directed, and that all thy paths and counsels may prosper: for every nation hath not counsel; but the Lord Himself giveth all good things," (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) Joshua 23:15 "Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all good things are come upon you, which the LORD your God promised you." 1 Kings 12:24 "Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We, verily, desire for you naught save what shall profit you, and to this bear witness all created things, had ye but ears to hear."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 75)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF HIM THAT STOOD BY HIS OWN ENTITY IN THE KINGDOM OF HIS SELF! Know thou, that I have wafted unto thee all the fragrances of holiness, have fully revealed to thee My word, have perfected through thee My bounty and have desired for thee that which I have desired for My Self. Be then content with My pleasure and thankful unto Me."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Should a man wish to adorn himself with the ornaments of the earth, to wear its apparels, or partake of the benefits it can bestow, no harm can befall him, if he alloweth nothing whatever to intervene between him and God, for God hath ordained every good thing, whether created in the heavens or in the earth, for such of His servants as truly believe in Him. Eat ye, O people, of the good things which God hath allowed you, and deprive not yourselves from His wondrous bounties. Render thanks and praise unto Him, and be of them that are truly thankful."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 275)

No real devil in existence.

56. No real devil. One thing that seems to be present in most of the commonly known religions of God is the talk of an evil anti-god or a devil. One thing that is not so well known, in these religions, is that a non-physical, non-literal, kind of

anti-deity is hinted at, or outright stated that he does not exist in these religions; or in other words, the religions tell us that the devil, or what ever other name he goes by, is not real, but a metaphor for our lower more animalistic nature. The devil, or Satan, as he is sometimes called, is symbolic for our more materialistic side. This way the devil is truly part of us and not some evil deity whispering in our ears. This way we are truly held accountable for our own actions before God not someone else: So, in following along with this statement, the term devil is not mentioned in the Old Testament. The term devils (plural) is used, and this is only used four times in the whole book. Also, when the term devils is used it is used to indicate the practice of idol worship and not the warning for mankind to be careful of the influence of some super anti god. Judaism: Leviticus 17:6 "And the priest shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar of the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and burn the fat for a sweet savour unto the LORD." 1. Leviticus 17:7 "And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations." 2. Deuteronomy 32:16 "They provoked Him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they Him to anger." Deuteronomy 32:17 "They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not." 3. Chronicles 11:15 "And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils." 4. Psalms 106:34 "They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works." Psalms 106:36 "And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them." Psalms 106:37 "Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils," Psalms 106:38 "And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan:"

Clearly the term devils used here in the Old Testament is used to indicate the practice of idol worship; and not the existence of an alter ego of God; and I found, when I really looked at the writings of the New Testament, that the term devil was not so clearly defined there

either: ✝ Christianity: Matthew 11:12 "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Matthew 11:17 "And saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned unto you, and ye have not lamented." Matthew 11:18 "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil." The people of that time called John the Baptist a man possessed by a devil just because he chose not to dance or do the things they thought he should be doing; so the actions of a man that went against custom was considered to be the actions of a man possibly possessed by a devil.

✝ CHRISTIANITY: Luke 8:35 "Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid." Illnesses of the mind, in those days, would most likely have been considered possession by devils to the people living around the afflicted individuals. So, by Jesus healing the mind of the afflicted man, the people, of that time, would have seen it as the devils had went out of him by the man being found in his right state of mind.

✝ CHRISTIANITY: Acts 10:38 "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." Christ healed those that were oppressed of the devil, not by the devil. Of, is something that can be a part of you like your ego or man's lower nature controlling his actions. Of the devil indicates that the devil was part of them not some exterior force to man that is trying to influence us in an unseen way:

✝ CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 8:33 "possessed of the devils." Luke 8:29 "driven of the devil into the wilderness etc….." Matthew 9:32 "As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil." Matthew 9:33 "And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marveled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel." Clearly the infirmity of not being able to speak was thought to

be caused by the presence of a devil, and the act of Christ healing this man was thought to be the process of driving the devil out of the man. Matthew 9:34 "But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils." Here Jesus himself is accused of working with the devil, while performing good actions that the Pharisees didn't like, which is a pretty good indication for us that if the people of that age didn't like your actions, for whatever reason, they thought a possible devil was responsible for the unwanted behavior. Matthew 11:18 "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil." Luke 7:33 "For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil." Again, the term devil is used here, by the people, to denote the characteristics and actions of John the Baptist which the people around him didn't like, so they accused him of having a devil in him. Since, John the Baptist was clearly not possessed by a devil, this is a good indication that the people of that time living around John the Baptist looked at the actions and conditions of the people around them and believed that anything that was out of the norm or unusual in a person's actions or in their physical condition was due to the presents of a devil in them. John 8:48 "Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?" John 8:49 "Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me." Even Jesus was accused of having a devil because he performed miracles that the Jews didn't want to see. Matthew 9:33 "And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marveled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel." Matthew 12:22 "Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw." Jesus Christ healed him which in the terminology of the bible would mean Christ had cast out the devil, which in reality meant Christ cast out the sickness. Luke 11:14 "And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered." All of these statements clearly indicate that these were physical and possibly symbolic conditions wrong with these people, and not the true possession of these individuals by real devils or demons possessing the body of a man.

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 10:19 "What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?" 1 Corinthians 10:20 "But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils." 1 Corinthians 10:21 "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils." In the New Testament we find that Paul also uses the term devils to indicate the practice of idol worship, like in the Old Testament. Paul goes a step further then this indicating that the people worshipping the idols are themselves to be considered devils. So here again, we find devils (plural) being associated with the actions of humans.**

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;" 1 Timothy 4:2 "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" Doctrines of devils, this statement is evidence that some of the actions of men will be corrupted by the doctrines of those that worship idols, but, the idols of today do not necessarily mean the golden calves of Moses' time. Idols can be anything that man places on a pedestal in his mind. Cars houses, televisions, business, money etc.... anything that we place more value on then we do God can be considered an idol that we worship in our minds; placing the worship of devils above God. 1 Corinthians 10:19 "What say I then? that the idol is any thing,"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If no fruits of the Kingdom appear in the garden of his soul, man is not in the image and likeness of God, but if those fruits are forthcoming, he becomes the recipient of ideal bestowals and is enkindled with the fire of the love of God. If his morals become spiritual in character, his aspirations heavenly and his actions conformable to the will of God, man has attained the image and likeness of his Creator; otherwise, he is the image and likeness of Satan. Therefore, Christ hath said, 'Ye shall know them by their fruits.'"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 335)

We also find that Christ was supposed to have been tempted by the Devil in the earliest part of his ministry: Christianity: Matthew 4:1 "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." Luke 4:2 "Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered." Mark 1:13 "And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him." Christ here was not tempted by the devil or Satan as we are told in church, but he was tempted, again, of the devil and of Satan, signifying the godly spiritual aspect we know as Christ was tempted of his lower physical side, being also mortal man, which again, indicates that the devil or Satan was there with Christ all along. Because this aspect of our physical nature is part of us on this earth, it tempts us and tries to guide us down the wrong path towards attachment to the physical world, which allows God to justly judge us since we are being tempted, not by some external force alien to us, but by our own physical self, wanting physical things of this world, which sends us down the material path of the world and not the spiritual path God wants us to follow. I mean, what do we really think sin is really all about? Sin is us doing something that is harmful to our spiritual selves or others that causes us to be creatures of nature and not true spiritual creatures like our Father which is in heaven, which is where God is really trying to lead us. I mean, how else do we think sin, mostly physical events, can harm our soul a spiritual entity? (See Sin and Sinning for more information)

CHRISTIANITY: John 6:67 "Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?" John 6:68 "Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." John 6:69 "And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." John 6:70 "Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" John 6:71 "He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve."

Christ clearly states that Judas Iscariot, a man, is a devil, though we clearly know that he was a man. Also, if this is not enough clarification that the devil or Satan is our lower animalistic side, Christ goes, a step further calling Peter Satan: Matthew 16:23 "But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Mark 8:33 "But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men." Here Christ clearly states it. Savoring the things of men, the physical world and its pleasures, is being of Satan, in which case man is considered to be Satan in the eyes of God.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The reality underlying this question is that the evil spirit, Satan or whatever is interpreted as evil, refers to the lower nature in man."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 77

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 13:8 "But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith." Acts 13:9 "Then Saul, (who also is called Paul) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him," Acts 13:10 "And said, O full of all subtlety and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" Again, we find the devil being associated with the actions of men, or the actions of a man. Paul calls this man who is standing in the way of God's work "child of the devil," which in this case stands for a man who is the enemy of all that is righteous, but is still a man not a literal child of a literal devil.**

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 3:8 "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."**
1 John 3:10 "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither

he that loveth not his brother." The children of the devil are clearly those people that doeth not the righteousness of God but commit sin, which is of the devil. Men that do wickedly are the children of the devil by their actions. ✡ Judaism: Job 1:6 "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them." Satan is found amongst the children of God and since we are the children of God Satan is found amongst us, because Satan is part of us, being our lower nature. Sirach 21:27 "When the ungodly curseth Satan, he curseth his own soul." (Apocrypha)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The reality underlying this question is that the evil spirit, Satan or whatever is interpreted as evil, refers to the lower nature in man." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 294) "This lower nature in man is symbolized as Satan -- the evil ego within us, not an evil personality outside." (Bahá'í Faith, Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 286)**

Also, rounding things out, we should look at the name Lucifer which is used only one time in the whole bible, in a proverb about the king of Babylon.

Lucifer: ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 14:4 "That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!" Isaiah 14:11 "Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee." Isaiah 14:12 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" Isaiah 14:13 "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:" Isaiah 14:14 "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." Isaiah 14:15 "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." Isaiah 14:16 "They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;"

Lucifer is a man in this proverb; the king of Babylon. Lucifer is a man, not some great evil anti-God. His armies were so massive they shook the earth when they moved and caused the other kingdoms to shake in fear.

Daniel 5:18 "5:18 "O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour:" Daniel 5:19 "And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him; whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down:" Jeremiah 8:16 "The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein." Ezekiel 26:7 "For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will bring upon Tyrus Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and companies, and much people." Ezekiel 26:8 "He shall slay with the sword thy daughters in the field: and he shall make a fort against thee, and cast a mount against thee, and lift up the buckler against thee." Ezekiel 26:9 "And he shall set engines of war against thy walls, and with his axes he shall break down thy towers." Ezekiel 26:10 "By reason of the abundance of his horses their dust shall cover thee: thy walls shall shake at the noise of the horsemen, and of the wheels, and of the chariots, when he shall enter into thy gates, as men enter into a city wherein is made a breach."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is evident that human personality appears in two aspects, -- the image or likeness of God and the aspect of Satan."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 108)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Regarding your question relative to the condition of those people who are described in the Gospel as being possessed of devils; this should be interpreted figuratively; devil or Satan is symbolic of evil and dark forces yielding to temptation."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 513)

Lastly, I find in my studies of the bible and the Bahá'í Faith and the other religions of God, that God is supposed to be all knowing, omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent. If this is true then how could God have made such a huge mistake by the creation of an evil anti-god, the devil, Lucifer, Satan or whatever other name you may call him by?

The God I have become aware of is all powerful, all knowing and ever present with us. The God I believe in is not sloppy, He doesn't make mistakes, and He is always present. ✡ Judaism: Jeremiah 23:23 "Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?" 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD." Ezekiel 28:3 "There is no secret that they can hide from Thee." I REPEAT, THERE IS NO SECRET WE CAN HIDE FROM GOD!!! So how could God make a mistake by creating an evil anti-god or devil? Matthew 5:48 "Your Father which is in heaven is perfect." God is perfect, He does not make mistakes!!! He is omniscient, He knows everything, past, present and all into the future.

But, let's say for arguments sake that God did create this evil anti-god? God is omnipresent; He is always with everybody and everything. How could anybody, let alone an angel, conspire against God, God is ever present, there is nothing that can be done in secret that God will not be aware of. Let me repeat: Ezekiel 28:3 "There is no secret that they can hide from Thee." Jeremiah 23:23 "Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?" 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD." ✝ Christianity: Matthew 18:10 "For I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." Angels always behold the face of God in heaven, therefore God always beholds the angels; there is no secret we or the angels can hide from God, so the story of the falling of the angels, which is not even found in the bible, makes very little sense. The only story I find in the bible about a war in heaven takes place in Revelations which is not supposed to have happened yet, but will take place after Revelations is being fulfilled: ✝ Christianity: Revelation 12:7 "And there was war in heaven: Michael

and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels," 12:8 "And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." 12:9 "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent called the Devil, and Satan…. he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." So you see, the war of Satan is yet to take place and God is most certainly aware of all that he does, so this only strengthens my point, that the existence of the devil and Satan is symbolic and not to be taken literally. Satan is not a real entity: ✵Bahá'í Faith: "The evil spirit, Satan or whatever is interpreted as evil, refers to the lower nature in man. This baser nature is symbolized in various ways. In man there are two expressions; one is the expression of nature, the other the expression of the spiritual realm. The world of nature is defective. Look at it clearly, casting aside all superstition and imagination. If you should leave a man uneducated and barbarous in the wilds of Africa, would there be any doubt about his remaining ignorant? God has never created an evil spirit; all such ideas and nomenclature are symbols expressing the mere human or earthly nature of man. It is an essential condition of the soil of earth that thorns, weeds and fruitless trees may grow from it. Relatively speaking, this is evil; it is simply the lower state and baser product of nature."

"It is evident therefore that man is in need of divine education and inspiration; that the spirit and bounties of God are essential to his development. That is to say, the teachings of Christ and the prophets are necessary for his education and guidance."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 77)

A little bit of added information about the interaction of the Jewish religion with the Zoroastrian religion, I found when I was researching the other religions on the topic of the devil I think you might find interesting; and it can all be verified by researching the interaction of the two faiths. The Jewish people were familiar with devils and idol worship, but after their interactions with the Zoroastrians the term devils took on a more singular meaning as in one devil instead of many and it became less about idol worship and more about a negative anti-deity, or opponent to God: "Broken be Satan,' who is also known as

'Ahriman,' who is also known as, 'The Evil-Doer Angra Mainyu.' (The Zoroastrian) equivalent to the devil in Christianity. 'Angra Mainyu (Ahriman) known as the deadly, the Daeva of the Daevas;' also called 'the evil-doer' and 'the evil spirit.'"

"Angra Mainyu, who is all death, the worst-lying of all Daevas, is the Daeva the supreme ruler of the Daevas which makes the Daevas all to be Devils the enemies to mankind and the curse to humanity."

"When in the early centuries during the captivity of the children of Israel by the Babylonian kings the followers of the laws of Moses encountered the religion of the followers of Zarathushtra (Zoroaster); and the similar laws and similar belief structure of the two religions became self evident to the Babylonians and the Jews. This is one of the reasons why King Cyrus of the Persian monarchy released the Hebrew children from their captivity to Babylon and gave Ezra and Nehemiah, two of the prophets of the Torah and the Bible, the means to rebuild the temple of God in Jerusalem and rebuild the city of Jerusalem."

"It was also because of this interaction between these two religions, Judaism and Zoroastrianism, that certain names and ideologies were passed between the two religions. One of which was this belief in a more singular devil which up to this point had been plural devils and related to idol worship. Another thing that occurred was the Daevas, the bitter enemies' of mankind became devils and then later on singularly The Devil."

(The Zend-Avesta, Khorda Avesta and The Vendidad Avesta)

Without God we can do nothing.

57. Without God we can do nothing. ✝ **Christianity: John 15:5 "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing. 9:33 "If this man were not of God, he could do nothing." 5:30 In fact, "I can of mine own self do nothing:" And God speaking through Jesus Christ tells us that "Without Me ye can do nothing." We are completely reliant on God whether we know it or not. Without the assistance of**

God we can do nothing but make choices that rely on God's assistance to complete. This is a teaching found in the writings of the bible and this is a teaching also found in the Bahá'í Faith. Acts 17:28 "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; Romans 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Romans 14:8 "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." James 4:15 "For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God."

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 65:4 "Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee," Enoch 2. "According as God hath ordained so is it done." Maccabees "Nevertheless, as the will of God is in heaven, so let him do." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Some things are subject to the free will of man, such as justice, equity, tyranny and injustice, in other words, good and evil actions; it is evident and clear that these actions are, for the most part, left to the will of man. But there are certain things to which man is forced and compelled, such as sleep, death, sickness, decline of power, injuries and misfortunes; these are not subject to the will of man, and he is not responsible for them, for he is compelled to endure them. But in the choice of good and bad actions he is free, and he commits them according to his own will."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The movement of man depend upon the assistance of God. If he is not aided, he is not able to do either good or evil. But when the help of existence comes from the Generous Lord, he is able to do both good and evil; but if the help is cut off, he remains absolutely helpless. This is why in the Holy Books they speak of the help and assistance of God. So this condition is like that of a ship which is moved by the power of the wind or steam; if this power ceases, the ship cannot move at all. Nevertheless, the rudder of the ship turns it to either side, and the power of the steam moves it in the**

desired direction. If it is directed to the east, it goes to the east; or if it is directed to the west, it goes to the west. This motion does not come from the ship; no, it comes from the wind or the steam."

"In the same way, in all the action or inaction of man, he receives power from the help of God; but the choice of good or evil belongs to the man himself."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, pp. 248, 249)

Do on to others as you would have others do onto you. (The golden rule)

58. Do on to others as you would have others do onto you. (The golden rule) Bahá'í Faith: "The Golden Rule, the teaching that we should treat others as we ourselves would wish to be treated, is an ethic variously repeated in all the great religions:"

(Baha'i International Community, 1995 Oct, Turning Point For All Nations)

JUDAISM: The Talmud, Shabbat 31a. "What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow men;" Numbers 10:32 "do unto us, the same will we do unto thee." Leviticus 19:17 "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him." Leviticus 19:18 "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O son of man! If thine eyes be turned towards mercy, forsake the things that profit thee, and cleave unto that which will profit mankind. And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbor that which thou choosest for thyself."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 29)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 7:12 "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF BEING! Ascribe not to any soul that which thou wouldst not have ascribed to thee, and say not that which thou doest not. This is My command unto thee, do thou observe it."

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 6:31 "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Wish not for others what ye wish not for yourselves; fear God, and be not of the prideful."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 72)

The drinking of alcohol or taking illegal drugs is prohibited.

59. The drinking of alcohol or taking illegal drugs is prohibited. In the Baha'i Faith drinking of alcoholic beverages or the taking of mind altering drugs is prohibited in this dispensation. Nor is this something that is necessarily completely foreign to the bible. It just doesn't seem to be talked about much. Judaism: Leviticus 10:9 "Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:"
Proverbs 20:1 "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."
Hosea 4:11 "Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God hath prohibited unto men the drinking of wine, and the unlawfulness thereof hath been revealed and recorded in the Book of God,"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 73)

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 5:11 "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!" Isaiah 5:22 "Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:" Isaiah 28:7 "But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment."**
Christianity: 1 Thessalonians 5:8 "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "With regard to your first question on alcohol and drinking, Bahá'u'lláh, fully aware of the great misery that it brings about, prohibits it as He expressly states that everything that takes away the mind, or in other words makes one drunk, is forbidden...."**

(Compilations, The Compilation of Compilations vol II, p. 246)

CHRISTIANITY: Romans 13:13 "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying." Romans 14:21 "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." 1 Peter 1:13 "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Abdu'l-Bahá explains that the Aqdas prohibits 'both light and strong drinks,' and He states that the reason for prohibiting the use of alcoholic drinks is because 'alcohol leadeth the mind astray and causeth the weakening of the body.'"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 227)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Galatians 5:21 "Envying, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Titus 2:1 "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:" Titus 2:2 "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience." Titus 2:3 "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;" Titus 2:4 "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children," Titus 2:6 "Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded." Titus 2:12 "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Alcohol consumeth the mind and causeth man to commit acts of absurdity, but this opium, this foul fruit of the infernal tree, and this wicked hashish extinguish the mind, freeze the spirit, petrify the soul, waste the body and leave man frustrated and lost."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 239)

 **JUDAISM: Habakkuk 2:15 "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken,"**

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 4:7 "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." 1 Corinthians 5:11 "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer,**

or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat." 1 Corinthians 6:9 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind," 1 Corinthians 6:10 "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "And if you are one of those 'nice people' so many persons claim to be, who do not drink to excess, nor harm anyone, and therefore do not need a God to obey -- or need only some sterile deity of their own choosing, a selection from whose precepts they will follow when they see fit, and whose synthetic thunder, listened to, or not listened to, once a week, does not fool them for a moment -- then you are empty, you are ineffective, you make no impact on society; and those discarded men sprawling in the streets are your glass of wine, and those piles of dead bodies you turn away from in the press, are your professed goodwill, and all that useless agony in so many men's and women's hearts, is your sexual sophistication."**

(Marzieh Gail, Dawn Over Mount Hira, p. 180)

Shake the dust off your feet.

60. Shake the dust off your feet. We are told in the bible and The Bahá'í Faith not to let the rejection of the teachings, we are trying to disseminate among the masses, bother us when the unbelievers step forward and try to disrupt our endeavors or the spiritually blind fail to see the light. We are just supposed to shake the dust off our feet and go on and leave them to the will of God. Christianity: Matthew 10:14 "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet." 10:15 "Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To those souls who are preaching the Word of God, it behooveth them to shake the dust of every land through which they have passed from their shoes."**

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 474)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 6:11 "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "'When ye leave the city, clean off from your shoes the dust thereof.' The holiness of the teachers must reach this degree. Thus may they utter with eloquence, while in ecstasy and great joy, and guide the people to the manifest light."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 359)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 9:5 "And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The fruits of the tree of man have ever been and are goodly deeds and a praiseworthy character. Withhold not these fruits from the heedless. If they be accepted, your end is attained, and the purpose of life achieved. If not, leave them in their pastime of vain disputes."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 25)

God created the heavens and the earth and gave the earth to man.

61. God created the heavens and the earth and gave the earth to man for man to have dominion over: God created the heavens and the earth for the benefit of mankind. We find mention of this in the Holy Writings of many of the great religions of God.

From Judaism we are told: ✡ Judaism: Genesis 1:27 "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." Genesis 1:28 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Psalms 115:15 "Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth." Psalms 115:16 "The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men." Jeremiah 27:5 "I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto Me." (Humanity)

✝ CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 6:19 "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God," 2:12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." Matthew 25:35 "For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." Acts 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" "17:25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;" All things are given of God and we need to show our gratitude to God through our actions preformed in honor of His name.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Should a man wish to adorn himself with the ornaments of the earth, to wear its apparels, or partake of the benefits it can bestow, no harm can befall him, if he alloweth nothing whatever to intervene between him and God, for God hath ordained every good thing, whether created in the heavens or in the earth, for such of His servants as truly believe in Him. Eat ye, O people, of the good things which God hath allowed you, and deprive not yourselves from His wondrous bounties. Render thanks and praise unto Him, and be of them that are truly thankful."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 276)

Universal education.

62. Universal education for all regardless of social, economic, racial or sexual distinction. Bahá'í Faith: "This is a new teaching brought to man by Bahá'u'lláh. Bahá'u'lláh counsels the education of all members of society. No individual should be denied or deprived of intellectual training, although each should receive according to capacity. None must be left in the grades of ignorance, for ignorance is a defect in the human world. All mankind must be given a knowledge of science and philosophy -- that is, as much as may be deemed necessary. All cannot be scientists and philosophers, but each should be educated according to his needs and deserts."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 107)

It's not that teaching in the bible didn't exist? It's just that, given the time, the education of mankind had to be limited to a chosen few who could share with the rest, but it was still God's desire that people learn and teach one another.

 **JUDAISM: Leviticus 10:11 "And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses." Deuteronomy 6:6 "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:" Deuteronomy 6:7 "And thou shalt**

teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 11:18 "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes." Deuteronomy 11:19 "And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 17:19 "And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: Isaiah 34:16 "Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read:" Christianity: 1 Timothy 4:13 "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Education is essential and all standards of training and teaching throughout the world of mankind should be brought into conformity and agreement; a universal curriculum should be established and the basis of ethics be the same."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 240)

Man's ego, within him, that whispers secret suggestions of vanity and wrong doing to him.

63. It is a man's ego, within him, that whispers secret suggestions of vanity and wrong doing to him, not some evil anti-god, not a Satan: There is a base earthly side to the condition of man that holds a dark animalistic control over him. This is found in all mankind's hidden psyche and is touched on throughout the religions of God almost mystically. Christianity: Romans 8:27 "He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit." James 1:8 "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." One mind being the higher self or the spiritual nature of man and the other being the lower self or the natural, animal side of man; the ego. 1 Corinthians

15:40 “There are… celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.” In other words; 1 Corinthians 15:44 “There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.” 1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man (the part controlled by the yearnings and lusts) (the ego) receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” 1 Corinthians 15:45 “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; (with ego in partial control of his actions), the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.” (or the higher celestial side of spiritual man became quickened and more in control of man), or we could say man was, 1 Corinthians “Sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.” A heavenly spiritual man. Hebrews 10:22 “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience (the ego), and our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 13:18 “Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly.” ✡ Judaism: Ecclesiastics 3:18 “I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.” (natural man or egotistical man) 3:19 “For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; ….. man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.” 3:21 “Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast (ego) that goeth downward to the earth?” (natural man)

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “In man there are two natures; his spiritual or higher nature and his material or lower nature.” “As long as man is a captive of habit, pursuing the dictates of self and desire, he is vanquished and defeated. This passionate personal ego takes the reins from his hands, crowds out the qualities of the divine ego and changes him into an animal, a creature unable to judge good from evil, or to distinguish light from darkness.”**

(Bahá’í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 133 and Paris Talks, p. 60)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Self has really two meanings, or is used in two senses, in the Bahá'í writings; one is self, the identity of the individual created by God. This is the self mentioned in such passages as ‘he hath known God who hath known himself etc....’ The other self is the ego, the dark, animalistic heritage each one of us has, the lower nature that can develop into a monster of selfishness, brutality, lust and so on. It is this self we must struggle against, or this side of our natures, in order to strengthen and free the spirit within us and help it to attain perfection.”**

(Bahá’í Faith, Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 113)

At end of life be spiritual.

64. At end of life be spiritual. Our goal at the end of this life is to be spiritual in nature so we can take our place in God’s holy realm when we pass on out of this life. This is true for all of God’s religions that teach of another spiritual world: ✝ **Christianity: Matthew 10:22 “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” Matthew 24:13 “He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Romans 1:11 “For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;” Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life.” Romans 8:6 “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life,” 6:22 “and the end everlasting life.” Colossians 1:9 “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;” 1:10 “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;” 1:11 “Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;” 1:12 “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints:”** ✡ **Judaism: Enoch 2. “Blessed are ye, ye righteous and elect,**

For glorious shall be your lot." Enoch 3. "And the righteous shall be in the light of the sun. And the elect in the light of eternal life:" "spiritual, living the eternal life." Ecclesiastes 6:11 "Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better?" 6:12 "For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?" 7:1 "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death (for one who is spiritual) than the day of one's birth." 7:8 "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We cannot believe the call to be spiritual when there is no result. Spirit is reality, and when the spirit in each of us seeks to join itself with the Great Reality, it must in turn give life." (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 107) "The dearest wish of this wronged one is that the friends be spiritual of heart and illumined of mind." (Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 221)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "None knoweth what his own end shall be. How often hath a sinner attained, at the hour of death, to the essence of faith, and, quaffing the immortal draught, hath taken his flight unto the Concourse on high! And how often hath a devout believer, at the hour of his soul's ascension, been so changed as to fall into the nethermost fire!" (Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 265) "It is the relationship of the individual soul to God and the fulfillment of its spiritual destiny that is the ultimate aim of the laws of religion." (The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 2)**

Love and care for your enemies.

65. Love and care for your enemies as you would care for yourself. Christianity: Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" Matthew 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in

heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Loving and caring for your enemies is a fundamental teaching of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, but it is also a spiritual teaching found in the writings of Bahá'u'lláh in the Bahá'í Faith:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When Christ came this was changed; the old axiom 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth' was converted into 'Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you', the stern old law being changed into one of love, mercy and forbearance!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 142)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 3:11 "He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise." Luke 6:35 "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil." Romans 12:20 "If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Now must the lovers of God arise to carry out these instructions of His: let them be kindly fathers to the children of the human race, and compassionate brothers to the youth, and self-denying offspring to those bent with years. The meaning of this is that ye must show forth tenderness and love to every human being, even to your enemies, and welcome them all with unalloyed friendship, good cheer, and loving-kindness."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 21)

 **JUDAISM: Leviticus 19:18 "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:34 "But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and**

thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When ye meet with cruelty and persecution at another's hands, keep faith with him; when malevolence is directed your way, respond with a friendly heart. To the spears and arrows rained upon you, expose your breasts for a target mirror-bright; and in return for curses, taunts and wounding words, show forth abounding love."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 21)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 24:17 "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:" Proverbs 25:21 "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:" Malachi 2:10 "Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother,"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh has clearly said in His Tablets that if you have an enemy, consider him not as an enemy. Do not simply be long-suffering; nay, rather, love him. Your treatment of him should be that which is becoming to lovers. Do not even say that he is your enemy. Do not see any enemies. Though he be your murderer, see no enemy. Look upon him with the eye of friendship. Be mindful that you do not consider him as an enemy and simply tolerate him, for that is but stratagem and hypocrisy. To consider a man your enemy and love him is hypocrisy. This is not becoming of any soul. You must behold him as a friend. You must treat him well. This is right."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 267)

Enlightenment!

66. <u>Enlightenment! One of the achievements one should hope to realize when studying the teachings of the various religions of God is to obtain enlightenment from the writings.</u> Spiritual enlightenment is one of the main reasons we study religion; and if you are not receiving enlightenment, from God, from the verses you are reading, then you might want to question whether something you are doing is not quite right. Seeing into the true spiritual nature of the word of God is directly related to our enlightenment. So something needs to change in the way you are doing things; because spiritual enlightenment, or the insight into the spiritual nature of the word of God, should come to you after reading into God's Holy Writings or I should say, after you steadily read into the writings of God on a regular bases to allow God's special holiness to work into our lives, because nothing worthwhile comes to you without effort on your part. <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Thomas</u> "Peace and Enlightenment be yours!" (The Gospel of Thomas) 1 <u>Peter</u> 2:9 "Shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;" 2:10 "Which in time past were not a people, but are now the (enlightened) people of God:" 2 <u>Corinthians</u> 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. <u>Luke</u> 1:78 "Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us," 1:79 "To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace," and enlightenment. <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Psalms</u> 18:28 "For Thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness." <u>Job</u> 33:29 "Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man," 33:30 "To bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living." <u>Isaiah</u> 6019 "The LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory." <u>Isaiah</u> 60:20 "Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light."

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Abdu'l-Bahá said: -- 'Luxuries cut off the freedom of communication. One who is imprisoned by desires is always unhappy; the children of the Kingdom have unchained themselves from their desires. Break all fetters and seek for spiritual joy and enlightenment;

then, though you walk on this earth, you will perceive yourselves to be within the divine horizon.'"

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 87)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the spiritual realm of intelligence and idealism there must be a center of illumination, and that center is the everlasting, ever-shining Sun, the Word of God. Its lights are the lights of reality which have shone upon humanity, illumining the realm of thought and morals, conferring the bounties of the divine world upon man. These lights are the cause of the education of souls and the source of the enlightenment of hearts, sending forth in effulgent radiance the message of the glad-tidings of the kingdom of God. In brief, the moral and ethical world and the world of spiritual regeneration are dependent for their progressive being upon that heavenly center of illumination. It gives forth the light of religion and bestows the life of the spirit, imbues humanity with archetypal virtues and confers eternal splendors. This Sun of Reality, this center of effulgences is the prophet or Manifestation of God. Just as the phenomenal sun shines upon the material world producing life and growth, likewise the spiritual or prophetic Sun confers illumination upon the human world of thought and intelligence, and unless it rose upon the horizon of human existence the kingdom of man would become dark and extinguished."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 254)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Blessed the man who hath sought enlightenment from the Day-Star of My Word. Blessed he who hath attired his head with the diadem of My love. Blessed is he who hath heard of My grief and hath arisen to aid Me among My people. Blessed is he who hath laid down his life in My path and hath borne manifold hardships for the sake of My Name. Blessed the man who, assured of My Word, hath arisen from among the dead to celebrate My praise. Blessed is he that hath been enraptured by My wondrous melodies and hath rent the veils asunder through the potency of My might. Blessed is he who hath**

remained faithful to My Covenant, and whom the things of the world have not kept back from attaining My Court of holiness. Blessed is the man who hath detached himself from all else but Me, hath soared in the atmosphere of My love, hath gained admittance into My Kingdom, gazed upon My realms of glory, quaffed the living waters of My bounty, hath drunk his fill from the heavenly river of My loving providence, acquainted himself with My Cause, apprehended that which I concealed within the treasury of My Words, and hath shone forth from the horizon of divine knowledge engaged in My praise and glorification. Verily, he is of Me. Upon him rest My mercy, My loving-kindness, My bounty and My glory."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 16)

Equality of man and woman.

67. Equality of man and woman. In the Bahá'í Writings we find that equality of the sexes holds a high station in the eyes of God. God created woman not below the feet of man to be walked over, but from the side of man: ✡ Judaism: Genesis 2:21 "And Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof:" Genesis 2:22 "and the rib, which Jehovah God had taken from the man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." Genesis 2:23 "And the man said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." In the book of Adams' generations God also hints at the equality of Adam and Eve in that God states that He makes no distinction between man and woman by calling them both by the same name Adam: Genesis 5:1 "This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;" Genesis 5:2 "male and female created he them, and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh states there must be "equality of man and woman. He has declared that in the estimation of God there is no distinction of sex." The one whose heart is most pure, whose deeds and service in the Cause of God are greater and nobler, is most acceptable before the divine threshold -- whether male or female."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

The equality of man and woman is important to the world of humanity if mankind is going to thrive:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the vegetable and animal kingdoms sex exists in perfect equality and without distinction or invidious estimate. The animal, although inferior to man in intelligence and reason, recognizes sex equality. Why should man, who is endowed with the sense of justice and sensibilities of conscience, be willing that one of the members of the human family should be rated and considered as subordinate? Such differentiation is neither intelligent nor conscientious; therefore, the principle of religion has been revealed by Bahá'u'lláh that woman must be given the privilege of equal education with man and full right to his prerogatives."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 107)

 **JUDAISM: Judges 4:4 "And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time." Judges 4:5 "And she dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim: and the children of Israel came up to her for judgment." Judges 4:6 "And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?" Judges 4:7 "And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand." Not only was Deborah a woman of wisdom, she was a leader in a man's world that men would**

come to for advice and guidance on crucial matters of survival for the children of Israel. She was not looked down on because she was a woman. She was considered a woman of great standing and importance in a savage world filled with hardship and turmoil.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God has created all creatures in couples. Man, beast, or vegetable, all the things of these three kingdoms are of two sexes, and there is absolute equality between them."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 160)

Also, found in the bible are two complete books about women Ester and Ruth and this is not to mention some of the books that were left out of the bible, example the gospel according to Mary. Some of the greatest people in the bible were women:

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 16:9 "Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils." Mark 16:10 "And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Equality of the sexes will be established in proportion to the increased opportunities afforded woman in this age, for man and woman are equally the recipients of powers and endowments from God, the Creator."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 300)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 8:14 "And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever." Matthew 8:15 "And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them." Matthew 27:55 "And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him:" Matthew 27:56 "Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children." Here we find that Jesus allows women to**

minister onto him showing no distinction or favor between the sexes. The bible demonstrates to us that Christ allowed women to speak to him, to touch him, to interact with him, to be his disciples and tend to his needs, which went against the custom of that day and time. Jesus treated women equally and respectfully and if not for man's doings, women would hold a high status in the Christian Faith and a place of high respect in the world. John 8:31 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, (which were male and female). If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;" Romans 16:1 "I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:" 16:2 "That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The emancipation of women, the achievement of full equality between the sexes, is one of the most important, though less acknowledged prerequisites of peace."**

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 618)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "when perfect equality shall be established between men and women, peace may be realized for the simple reason that womankind in general will never favor warfare. Women will not be willing to allow those whom they have so tenderly cared for to go to the battlefield."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 167)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh states there must be "equality of man and woman. He has declared that in the estimation of God there is no distinction of sex." "The one whose heart is most pure, whose deeds and service in the Cause of God are greater and nobler, is most acceptable before the divine threshold -- whether male or female."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Among the teachings of His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh is the equality of women and men. The world of humanity has two wings -- one is women and the other men. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly. Should one wing remain weak, flight is impossible. Not until the world of women becomes equal to the world of men in the acquisition of virtues and perfections, can success and prosperity be attained as they ought to be.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 288)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Abdu'l-Bahá smiled and asked: ‘What will you say if I prove to you that the woman is the stronger wing?’”**

“Abdu'l-Bahá then continued more seriously: ‘The woman is indeed of the greater importance to the race. She has the greater burden and the greater work. Look at the vegetable and the animal worlds. The palm which carries the fruit is the tree most prized by the date grower. The Arab knows that for a long journey the mare has the longest wind. For her greater strength and fierceness, the lioness is more feared by the hunter than the lion.”

“The mere size of the brain has been proved to be no measure of superiority. The woman has greater moral courage than the man; she has also special gifts which enable her to govern in moments of danger and crisis. If necessary she can become a warrior.”

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 102)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Upon another occasion 'Abdu'l-Bahá said to a group of friends around him: "Taken in general, women today have a stronger sense of religion than men. The woman's intuition is more correct; she is more receptive and her intelligence is quicker. The day is coming when woman will claim her superiority to man.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 104)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Woman has everywhere been commended for her faithfulness. After the Lord Christ suffered, the disciples wept, and gave way to their grief. They thought that their hopes were shattered, and that the Cause was utterly lost, till Mary Magdalene came to them and strengthened them saying: 'Do you mourn the body of Our Lord or His Spirit? If you mourn His Spirit, you are mistaken, for Jesus lives! His Spirit will never leave us!' Thus through her wisdom and encouragement the Cause of Christ was upheld for all the days to come. Her intuition enabled her to grasp the spiritual fact."**

"Abdu'l-Bahá then added: 'But in the sight of God sex makes no difference. He or she is greatest who is nearest to God.'"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 104)

(See Women shouldn't be silent about God.)

God is eternal.

68. God is eternal. One major teaching found throughout the religions of God is the belief that God is eternal, with out beginning and without end: ✝ Christianity: 1 Timothy 1:17 "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 5:10 "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." 5:11 "To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." Revelation 1:8 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 4:10 "Worship Him that liveth for ever and ever." Revelation 5:14 "And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped Him that liveth for ever and ever." Revelations 22:13 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 33:27 "The eternal God is thy

refuge.” Sirach “Thou art the Lord, the eternal God.” Enoch “The Holy Great One, the Lord of Glory, the Eternal King.” (Apocrypha)

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 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Therefore, as the Essence of Unity, that is the existence of God, is everlasting and eternal - that is to say, it has neither beginning nor end -- it is certain that this world of existence, this endless universe, has neither beginning nor end.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 297)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Praise be to God, the Eternal that perisheth not, the Everlasting that declineth not, the Self-Subsisting that altereth not.”**

(Bahá’í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 1)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “There is none other God but Him, the All-Glorious, the Almighty, the All-Highest, the All-Wise, the All-Pervading, the All-Seeing, the All-Informed, the Sovereign Protector, the Source of eternal light!” (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 36) “With faces beaming with joy, hasten ye unto Him. This is the changeless Faith of God, eternal in the past, eternal in the future.” (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p.136)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “O peoples of the earth! God, the Eternal Truth, is My witness that streams of fresh and soft-flowing waters have gushed from the rocks, through the sweetness of the words uttered by your Lord, the Unconstrained; and still ye slumber. Cast away that which ye possess, and, on the wings of detachment, soar beyond all created things. Thus biddeth you the Lord of creation, the movement of Whose Pen hath revolutionized the soul of mankind.”**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 139)

God is everywhere at once.

69. God is everywhere at once. There is no place found in the heavens or on the earth where the presence of God is not found or sensed: **Christianity: Colossians 1:16 "All things were created by Him, and for Him:" 1:17 "And He is before all things, and by Him all things (indefinitely, forever) consist." 2 Corinthians 2:14 "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph..... and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge..... in every place." Ephesians 4:4 "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;" 4:5 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." There is no place where He is cannot be found. Acts 17:27 "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though He be not far from every one of us:"**

JUDAISM: 2 Chronicles 2:6 "The heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Him." Jeremiah 23:23 "Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?" Jeremiah 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD." Psalms 139:8 "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." Psalms 139:9 "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;" Psalms 139:10 "Even there shall thy hand lead me."

BAHA'I FAITH: "When a man turns his face to God he finds sunshine everywhere." (Paris Talks, p. 15) "Ye are the abundant grace of God's oneness that is shed upon the essences of all created things." (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 266)

BAHA'I FAITH: "It behoveth the people of truth that the signs of humility should shine upon their faces, that the light of sanctity should radiate from their countenances, that they should walk upon the earth as though they were in the presence of God and distinguish

themselves in their deeds from all the dwellers of the earth." (Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 59)

"He is the First and the Last; the Seen and the Hidden; and He knoweth all things!" "There is no God save Him, and that every man may thereby win his way to the summit of realities, until none shall contemplate anything whatsoever but that he shall see God therein." (The Seven Valleys, p. 1)

Non-existence of true evil.

70. Non-existence of true evil: If God, in truth, is Bahá'í Faith: "infinite goodness" (Paris Talks, p. 108) and "His goodness has no bounds," (Paris Talks, p. 57) then the existence of evil in the universe makes no sense. If God is All Goodness then what He has created is all good and the concept of evil is not truly comprehended by mankind. The Bahá'í Writings tell us that the existence of real evil, in the universe, is non-existent and that we just don't understand the true nature of evil. The Bahá'í Writings tell us that all in creation is, in reality, good and that what we consider as true evil is the absence of good. (Bahá'í Faith: Paris Talks, pp. 57 and 108)

Actions of man and nature can appear to be evil, but in reality, evil is just the abuse and mishandling of what is, in truth, created as good. Bahá'í Faith: "God is pure perfection." (Bahá'í Faith: Some Answered Questions, p. 113) If this is true, then how can we believe that someone who is pure perfection can create true evil? Perfection and kindness and goodness are all found in His nature, and I say, if goodness, kindness and perfection help to make up His true nature, then I ask again, How can we honestly believe God would find it in Himself to create real evil?

Now I am sure that there are those who on hearing this will recite certain passages found in the Holy Scriptures that they feel repudiates this claim, such as: Judaism: Psalms 16:4 "The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil." and Isaiah 45:7 "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things." To this I say there is more to

these statements then can be taken at face value and I do address these issues but not here. These verses need to be explained in more detail and to do this here is to digress from the main theme of this topic. You can find the explanation to these and other topics in (God turns evil that men do into good, for more information into this theme)

Now, you may have noticed that I use terms like true and real evil in my analogy of evil, and this is because, as I stated earlier, there is no real evil in existence only misconception and the abuse of what was created, in reality, as absolute goodness. Christianity: 1 Timothy 4:4 "For every creature of God is good."

JUDAISM: Genesis 1:9 "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so." Genesis 1:10 "And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:11 "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so." Genesis 1:12 "And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:17 "And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth," 1:18 "And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:20 "And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven." Genesis 1:21 "And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:25 "And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." Deuteronomy 18:13 "Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God."

Deuteronomy 32:4 "He is the Rock, His work is perfect." Exodus 34:6 "The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth," Psalms 33:5 "He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD." Psalms 52:1 "The goodness of God endureth continually." The creation of God is good the bible tells us this. God is full of goodness and Bahá'í Faith: "His goodness has no bounds," (Paris Talks, p. 57) and so His creation, in reality, is only good and has no evil in it because Bahá'í Faith: "God is pure perfection." (Some Answered Questions, p. 113) and because God is pure perfection He makes no mistakes, so all is good.

CHRISTIANITY: 2 Thessalonians 1:11 "All the good pleasure of His goodness, fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness." 1 John 4:13 "Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit." 1 John 4:16 "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." 1 Corinthians 8:6 "There is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him;" 1 Timothy 4:4 "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused:" 4:5 "For it is sanctified by the word of God." Therefore: Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

So the New Testament also tells us that everything in creation is good, because our Christianity: Matthew 5:48 "Father which is in heaven is perfect." So, He made no mistakes and 2 Thessalonians 1:11 "All the good pleasure of His goodness, fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness." So, all is good in God's goodness and in His creation.

BAHA'I FAITH: "In the creation of God there is no evil; but the acquired capacity has become the cause of the appearance of evil."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 320)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "By the exercise of his free will, man either affirms his spiritual purpose in life or chooses to perpetuate evil by living below his highest station"**

(The Universal House of Justice, Messages 1963 to 1986, p. 663)

As for the conclusion of this argument, of there being only the existence of ultimate good in God's creation, I will bow out, and leave this subject to the eloquence of the words of Abdu'l-Baha (the son of Bahá'u'lláh) to explain, what my words have so inadequately tried to explain.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In creation there is no evil; all is good. Certain qualities and natures innate in some men and apparently blameworthy are not so in reality. For example, from the beginning of his life you can see in a nursing child the signs of greed, of anger and of temper. Then, it may be said, good and evil are innate in the reality of man, and this is contrary to the pure goodness of nature and creation. The answer to this is that greed, which is to ask for something more, is a praiseworthy quality provided that it is used suitably. So if a man is greedy to acquire science and knowledge, or to become compassionate, generous and just, it is most praiseworthy. If he exercises his anger and wrath against the bloodthirsty tyrants who are like ferocious beasts, it is very praiseworthy; but if he does not use these qualities in a right way, they are blameworthy."**

"Then it is evident that in creation and nature evil does not exist at all; but when the natural qualities of man are used in an unlawful way, they are blameworthy. So if a rich and generous person gives a sum of money to a poor man for his own necessities, and if the poor man spends that sum of money on unlawful things, that will be blameworthy. It is the same with all the natural qualities of man, which constitute the capital of life; if they be used and displayed in an unlawful way, they become blameworthy. Therefore, it is clear that creation is purely good."

"Nevertheless a doubt occurs to the mind -- that is, scorpions and serpents are poisonous. Are they good or evil, for they are existing

beings? Yes, a scorpion is evil in relation to man; a serpent is evil in relation to man; but in relation to themselves they are not evil, for their poison is their weapon, and by their sting they defend themselves. But as the elements of their poison do not agree with our elements -- that is to say, as there is antagonism between these different elements, therefore, this antagonism is evil; but in reality as regards themselves they are good."

"The epitome of this discourse is that it is possible that one thing in relation to another may be evil, and at the same time within the limits of its proper being it may not be evil. Then it is proved that there is no evil in existence; all that God created He created good. This evil is nothingness; so death is the absence of life. When man no longer receives life, he dies. Darkness is the absence of light: when there is no light, there is darkness. (The Holy Bible tells us: 1 John 1:5 'This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.' There is no darkness found in God at all, like there is no evil found in Him. So, since there is no darkness or evil found in The Creator, He didn't create evil or darkness. Darkness came into being because God created light, an existing thing, which revealed the nothingness of darkness). Light is an existing thing, but darkness is non-existent. Wealth is an existing thing, but poverty is nonexistent." (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 214)

"Then it is evident that all evils return to nonexistence. Good exists; evil is nonexistent." (Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 264)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God in His infinite goodness," "His goodness has no bounds."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, pp. 57 and 108)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be ye perfect even as your Father which is in heaven." (Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 79) "Evil is non-existent; it is the absence of good; sickness is the loss of health; poverty the lack of riches. When wealth disappears you are poor; you**

look within the treasure box but find nothing there. Without knowledge there is ignorance; therefore ignorance is simply the lack of knowledge. Death is the absence of life. Therefore on the one hand we have existence; on the other, non-existence, negation or absence of existence."

"Briefly; the journey of the soul is necessary. The pathway of life is the road which leads to divine knowledge and attainment. Without training and guidance the soul could never progress beyond the conditions of its lower nature which is ignorant and defective."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 78)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God has never created an evil spirit; all such ideas and nomenclature are symbols expressing the mere human or earthly nature of man. It is an essential condition of the soil of earth that thorns, weeds and fruitless trees may grow from it. Relatively speaking, this is evil; it is simply the lower state and baser product of nature."**

"It is evident, therefore, that man is in need of divine education and inspiration, that the spirit and bounties of God are essential to his development. That is to say, the teachings of Christ and the Prophets are necessary for his education and guidance."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 294)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "What is evil?' 'Evil is imperfection. Sin is the state of man in the world of the baser nature, for in nature exist defects such as injustice, tyranny, hatred, hostility, strife: these are characteristics of the lower plane of nature. These are the sins of the world, the fruits of the tree from which Adam did eat. Through education we must free ourselves from these imperfections. The Prophets of God have been sent, the Holy Books have been written, so that man may be made free. Just as he is born into this world of imperfection from the womb of his earthly mother, so is he born into**

the world of spirit through divine education. When a man is born into the world of phenomena he finds the universe; when he is born from this world to the world of the spirit, he finds the Kingdom."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 177)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Theologians think that the good and evil of things depend upon both reason and law. The chief foundation of the prohibition of murder, theft, treachery, falsehood, hypocrisy and cruelty, is reason. Every intelligent man comprehends that murder, theft, treachery, falsehood, hypocrisy and cruelty are evil and reprehensible; for if you prick a man with a thorn, he will cry out, complain and groan; so it is evident that he will understand that murder according to reason is evil and reprehensible. If he commits a murder, he will be responsible, whether the renown of the Prophet has reached him or not; for it is reason that formulates the reprehensible character of the action. When a man commits this bad action, he will surely be responsible."**

"But in a place where the commands of a Prophet are not known, and where the people do not act in conformity with the divine instructions, such as the command of Christ to return good for evil, but act according to the desires of nature -- that is, if they torment those who torment them -- from the point of view of religion they are excused because the divine command has not been delivered to them. Though they do not deserve mercy and beneficence, nevertheless, God treats them with mercy and forgives them."

"Now vengeance, according to reason, is also blameworthy, because through vengeance no good result is gained by the avenger. So if a man strikes another, and he who is struck takes revenge by returning the blow, what advantage will he gain? Will this be a balm for his wound or a remedy for his pain? No, God forbid! In truth the two actions are the same: both are injuries; the only difference is that one occurred first, and the other afterward. Therefore, if he who is struck forgives, nay, if he acts in a manner contrary to that which has been used toward him, this is laudable. The law of the community will

punish the aggressor but will not take revenge. This punishment has for its end to warn, to protect and to oppose cruelty and transgression so that other men may not be tyrannical."

"But if he who has been struck pardons and forgives, he shows the greatest mercy. This is worthy of admiration."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 266)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: And so, "we know absence of light is darkness, but no one would assert darkness was not a fact. It exists even though it is only the absence of something else. So evil exists too (like darkness), and we cannot close our eyes to it, even though it is a negative existence." (Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 512) "Just as darkness is but the absence or lesser degree of light, so evil is but the absence or lesser degree of good; the undeveloped state." (Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 195) Therefore:**  **Judaism: Psalms 16:4 "The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil." We know that evil is the nonexistence of good but the wicked are there to Bring about the day of evil, which God will in turn bring good out of for that individual or someone else. This is the cycle of good and evil and good again.**  **Bahá'í Faith: "Everything in existence is good, and only the lack of goodness make a thing evil. The being is created good, but when the lack of good is to be seen in it then it becomes bad. Evil is not created by God." (Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 500)**

Abstain from works of evil.

71. Abstain from works of evil. Though we might now understand that evil is just the absence of good, because God only created good in the universe, that does not mean we should go out and perform acts that are reprehensible to one another and believe there are no consequences due us for bad actions we perform. The writings of God,

from all His religions, clearly state that we will be held accountable for our actions whether good deeds or bad, reproachable acts that cause harm to ourselves or to others. Bad acts come with consequences; the writings of God, from the Holy Bible and The Bahá'í Faith clearly tell us to abstain from acts that may cause harm to ourselves or others, whether it be acts that cause harm to our body or to our soul or to others; one just needs to look through these books to see the warnings written in the pages of the works of God's manifestations to see the truth to this statement. ✡ Judaism: Psalms 34:14 "Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it." Psalms 34:16 "The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth." Proverbs 24:8 "He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person." Hosea 4:9 "And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings." Isaiah 1:16 "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes; cease to do evil;" Isaiah 13:11 "And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible." ✝ Christianity: Matthew 6:13 "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 3:20 "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." John 3:21 "But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." 1 Peter 3:12 "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." 2 Peter 2:8 "For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;" 2 Peter 2:9 "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness" 2 Thessalonians 1:8 "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:" 2 Thessalonians 1:9 "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Fear God, ye inhabitants of the City, and sow not the seeds of dissension amongst men. Walk not in the paths of the Evil One. Walk ye, during the few remaining days of your life, in the ways of the one true God. Your days shall pass away as have the days of them who were before you. To dust shall ye return, even as your fathers of old did return." (Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 125) "The Great Being saith: The structure of world stability and order hath been reared upon, and will continue to be sustained by, the twin pillars of reward and punishment...." (Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 218) "He who shall accept and believe, shall receive his reward; and he who shall turn away, shall receive none other than his own punishment." (Bahá'í Faith, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 339)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Pass beyond the narrow retreats of your evil and corrupt desires, and advance into the vast immensity of the realm of God, and abide ye in the meads of sanctity and of detachment, that the fragrance of your deeds may lead the whole of mankind to the ocean of God's unfading glory."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 241)

God turns evil that men do into good.

72. God turns evil that men do into good: Judaism: Psalms 16:4 "The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil." Isaiah 45:7 'I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things." In the Bahá'í Faith we have the belief that God can use events of the world that seem evil in their nature and make good come out of it. Things that seem evil in nature are not always evil once the end result is known. We find this in Genesis, in the story of Joseph where his brothers sold him into slavery. Judaism Genesis 50:19 "And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?" Genesis 50:20 "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto

good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." Genesis 50:21 "Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them." Had Joseph not been sold into slavery he wouldn't have been in the position, through God's grace, to feed the many people that came to Egypt in search of food during the great famine and he wouldn't have been in the position to help his family when the need arose. Genesis 45:4 "And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt." Genesis 45:5 "Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life." Genesis 45:6 "For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest." Genesis 45:7 "And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance." Genesis 45:8 "So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt." The story of Joseph and his brothers is a prime example of God taking an act of men that is seemingly completely evil in nature and turning it around for the greater good of those people involved and the betterment of the world in general; and this type of story is repeated numerously throughout the whole bible. Deuteronomy 8:2 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no." Deuteronomy 8:16 "Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;"

For example, had Jesus Christ not allowed himself to be crucified on the cross, what would have been the outcome? ✝ Christianity: Luke 23:33 "And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left." 23:34 "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Would Christianity have spread completely around the world affecting the lives of millions of people

for the betterment of the entire world? And what of the afflictions of the Báb and Baha'u'llah? The energies released from their pain and suffering will revitalize the world not just for a thousand years, but the effects of their revelations will be felt for the next five hundred thousand years:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Ancient Beauty hath consented to be bound with chains that mankind may be released from its bondage, and hath accepted to be made a prisoner within this most mighty Stronghold that the whole world may attain unto true liberty. He hath drained to its dregs the cup of sorrow, that all the peoples of the earth may attain unto abiding joy, and be filled with gladness. This is of the mercy of your Lord, the Compassionate, the Most Merciful. We have accepted to be abased, O believers in the Unity of God, that ye may be exalted, and have suffered manifold afflictions, that ye might prosper and flourish. He Who hath come to build anew the whole world, behold, how they that have joined partners with God have forced Him to dwell within the most desolate of cities!"**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 99)

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 15:13 "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;" Genesis 15:14 "And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance."**

The Hebrew children, after the time of Joseph, lived the lives of servants in Egypt for over four hundred years being afflicted by their masters. In this time the Hebrew children greatly multiplied in number till their number was as vast as the sands of the sea shore: Judaism: Genesis 22:17 "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;" In this four hundred years of their captivity the Hebrew children lived in conditions that were favorable to their multiplying in number. They had the food they needed to flourish, they had the

security of a great nation to protect them from harm. Had they existed on their own they would constantly have lived in danger from their enemies and they lived the lives of a semi nomadic people raising herds of cattle, conditions not favorable to the formation of a great people and a great nation.

God took all the years of hardship and bondage suffered by the Hebrew children and formed a great nation and a great people out of them. God took an apparently bad situation that appeared to be against the children of Israel and raised them to glory. He took what appeared to be great evil and made great good come out of it.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In creation there is no evil; all is good. Certain qualities and natures innate in some men and apparently blameworthy are not so in reality. For example, from the beginning of his life you can see in a nursing child the signs of desire, of anger, and of temper. Then, it may be said, good and evil are innate in the reality of man, and this is contrary to the pure goodness of nature and creation. The answer to this is that desire, which is to ask for something more, is a praiseworthy quality provided that it is used suitably. So, if a man has the desire to acquire science and knowledge, or to become compassionate, generous, and just, it is most praiseworthy. If he exercises his anger and wrath against the blood-thirsty tyrants who are like ferocious beasts, it is very praiseworthy; but if he does not use these qualities in a right way, they are blameworthy."**

"Then it is evident that in creation and nature evil does not exist at all; but when the natural qualities of man are used in an unlawful way, they are blameworthy."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 320)

For example: God formed light and this in turn created the concept of darkness or the absence of light, because you had to have the knowledge of the light God formed to realize its by-product which was darkness, or the absence of light which was in reality nothingness, not part of something God actually had to form, with all His creative

might, but a consequence of the light: ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 45:7 "I form the light, and create darkness:" ✹Bahá'í Faith: "Now as to the Power that knoweth no limitations; limitation itself proveth the existence of the unlimited, for the limited is known through the unlimited, just as weakness itself proveth the existence of power, ignorance the existence of knowledge, poverty the existence of wealth. Without wealth there would be no poverty, without knowledge no ignorance, without light no darkness. Darkness itself is a proof of the existence of light for darkness is the absence of light. (or nothingness) (Compilations, Baha'i World Faith, p. 344) ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 45:7 "I make peace, and create evil:" (the absence of good), ✹Bahá'í Faith: "We know absence of light is darkness, (2 Corinthians 6:14 "and what communion hath light with darkness?"), but no one would assert darkness was not a fact. It exists even though it is only the absence of something else. So evil exists too, and we cannot close our eyes to it, even though it is a negative existence." (Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 512) "Just as darkness is but the absence or lesser degree of light, so evil is but the absence or lesser degree of good; the undeveloped state." (Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 195) Therefore: ✡ Judaism: Psalms 16:4 "The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil." We know that evil is the nonexistence of good but the wicked are there to Bring about the day of evil, which God will in turn bring good out of for that individual or someone else. This is the cycle of good and evil and good again. ✹ Bahá'í Faith: "Everything in existence is good, and only the lack of goodness make a thing evil. The being is created good, but when the lack of good is to be seen in it then it becomes bad. Evil is not created by God." (Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 500)

Abstain from fellowship with evil doers.

73. Abstain from fellowship with evil doers: We have learned that true evil is, in reality, the absence of good in us, and our actions that appear evil are just the mishandling of the good things God has given us in nature, and the abuse of the spiritual laws He has sent down to us. The various writings of God tell us that we need to abstain

from the performance of unsavory acts against one another, but the warnings don't stop there. We are also warmed, in numerous texts, that we should abstain from fellowship with the unrighteous ones least their ungodly, unsavory ways, tempt us, and lead us astray from the right path. We find that these warnings are not only in the bible and the Bahá'í Writings, but are scattered throughout the rest of the heavenly books, but for now we are only dealing with the bible and the Bahá'í Writings. God wants us to avoid contact and interaction with unmoral, unbelievers who can, after a while, lead even the most, well studied, righteous believers astray into the wilderness of corrupt inclinations. The holy books are very clear on this point, and the only real dispensation to this rule is the teaching of the faith to these unenlightened ones or caring for them as loving brothers when in need. ✝ Christianity: 2 Thessalonians 3:6 "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly." Romans 16:17 "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." Ephesians 5:11 "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." 1 Corinthians 5:11 "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat." 1 Corinthians 10:20 "But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils." 2 Corinthians 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" ✡ Judaism: Sirach 13:17 "What fellowship hath the wolf with the lamb? so the sinner with the godly." Psalms 1:1 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Psalms 26:5 "I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked." Psalms 94:20 "Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?" Proverbs 4:14 "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men." Proverbs 18:5 "It is not good to accept the person of the wicked,"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "With all his heart should the seeker avoid fellowship with evil doers, and pray for the remission of their sins."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 194)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He should not wish for others that which he doth not wish for himself, nor promise that which he doth not fulfill. With all his heart he should avoid fellowship with evil-doers, and pray for the remission of their sins. He should forgive the sinful, and never despise his low estate, for none knoweth what his own end shall be. How often hath a sinner attained, at the hour of death, to the essence of faith, and, quaffing the immortal draught, hath taken his flight unto the Concourse on high! And how often hath a devout believer, at the hour of his soul's ascension, been so changed as to fall into the nethermost fire!"**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 265)

Eyes that see not, ears that don't hear.

74. Eyes that see not, ears that don't hear: One of the big warnings found in the religions of God is the warning that there will be many among those who hear the words of the prophet and will not understand the meaning of what the messenger is trying to communicate to them. The various books state that the people have eyes, but they see not. They have ears to hear, but they just don't hear past the material content of the words being spoken to them and they just can't see into the deeper hidden spiritual meaning of the words the manifestation of God is trying to tell them. They have minds to know, but they just don't comprehend the true intent behind the words, and this seems to be a problem common to and inherent in all of God's religions.

One only has to look at the teachings of the books of God to see the truth of these words. ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 29:4 "Yet the LORD

hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day." Isaiah 6:9 "And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not." Isaiah 6:10 "Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert and be healed." Jeremiah 5:21 "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:" Ezekiel 12:2 "Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house." Christianity: Matthew 13:13 "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." Matthew 13:14 "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:" Matthew 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." Mark 8:18 "Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?" Luke 8:9 "And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?" 8:10 "And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand." John 9:39 "And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind." 2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:" 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

BAHA'I FAITH: "It is easy to read the Holy Scriptures, but it is only with a clean heart and a pure mind that one may understand their true meaning. Let us ask God's help to enable us to understand the Holy

Books. Let us pray for eyes to see and ears to hear, and for hearts that long for peace."

"God's eternal Mercy is immeasurable. He has always chosen certain souls upon whom He has shed the Divine Bounty of His heart, whose minds He has illumined with celestial light, to whom He has revealed the sacred mysteries, and kept clear before their sight the Mirror of Truth. These are the disciples of God, and His goodness has no bounds. You who are servants of the Most High may be disciples also. The treasuries of God are limitless."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 56)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Pen of the Most High is unceasingly calling; and yet, how few are those that have inclined their ear to its voice! The dwellers of the kingdom of names have busied themselves with the gay livery of the world, forgetful that every man that hath eyes to perceive and ears to hear cannot but readily recognize how evanescent are its colors."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 195)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "And, now, strive thou to comprehend the meaning of this saying of Ali, the Commander of the Faithful: 'Piercing the veils of glory, unaided.' 'Among these (veils of glory) are the divines and doctors living in the days of the Manifestation of God, who, because of their want of discernment and their love and eagerness for leadership, have failed to submit to the Cause of God, nay, have even refused to incline their ears unto the divine Melody.' 'They have thrust their fingers into their ears.' And the people also, utterly ignoring God and taking them for their masters, have placed themselves unreservedly under the authority of these pompous and hypocritical leaders, for they have no sight, no hearing, no heart, of their own to distinguish truth from falsehood."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 163)

All eyes will see.

75. <u>All eyes will see</u>. There are people who expect to see Jesus Christ literally coming down on physical clouds and all will see him. <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Revelations</u> 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and <u>every eye shall see him</u>:" The question you might want to ask yourself is, how this is possible? How could Jesus Christ possibly come down on any cloud and all eyes see him on a round sphere of a planet? Now I know some people are going to say we will see him on the television, but if we see it on the television how will we know it's real? Also, what about all the places in the world where there are no televisions or the country is so poor that most of the people living there can't afford to buy televisions? Anyone who has done any serious traveling in this world probably knows the kind of places I am talking about. How are all of these millions and billions of people going to see Jesus when he comes? They can't! It is simple laws of physics. We can't see what is in the sky many miles away from where we are standing let alone see what is happening on the other side of the planet.

This is a good argument that the word play on these statements is not to be taken literally. It is just physically impossible for this to happen and if something like this was possible who in their right mind would have the nerve to dispute it, let alone the audacity to deny the coming of Jesus as the bible lets us know is going to happen. There would be no freewill involved here. Every one's free will would be taken away from them out of sheer terror!

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Nay, each must see with his own eyes, hear with his own ears and investigate the truth himself in order that he may follow the truth instead of blind acquiescence and imitation of ancestral beliefs."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 246)

The bible goes further than this. Isaiah prophesied that all flesh would see Jesus Christ during his first coming. Judaism: Isaiah 40:3 "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Here Isaiah is prophesying the coming of John The Baptist in the wilderness preparing the way, making the way straight for the coming of Jesus Christ: Isaiah 40:5 "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." Here we have a prophecy about the first coming of Jesus Christ. We know this prophecy from Isaiah is about Jesus Christ's first coming, because Isaiah mentions the voice crying in the wilderness preparing the way, making the way straight for the Lord, which was of course John the Baptist, in the wilderness, calling on the people to repent: Christianity: Matthew 3:1 "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea," Matthew 3:2 "And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matthew 3:3 "For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Matthew 3:4 "And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey."

What the next statement from Isaiah states is that the glory of the lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. Judaism: Isaiah 40:5 "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." Well anyone who has studied the New Testament or history knows this is not the way it literally happened with Christ's first coming. The glory of the Lord (Jesus Christ in this case) was revealed gradually and all flesh did not physically see Jesus together at once, this statement was symbolic or spiritual in meaning, not to be taken literally.

BAHA'I FAITH: "But when His Holiness the Christ appeared they jeeringly turned away; when the orb of reality dawned they could not see it, for their eyes were covered with the veils of traditions and names."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 171)

Again, these statements are symbolic in nature and not to be taken literally. Jesus' coming did fulfill these prophecies of Isaiah, but it took those with eyes to see and ears to hear to understand what they were seeing and hearing: ✝ Christianity: Matthew 13:13 "because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." We as Bahá'ís look at the second coming of Jesus Christ as being fulfilled just as symbolically as the first coming of Jesus Christ was fulfilled symbolically. Example: ✝ Christianity: Luke 21:27 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." He shall be coming in a cloud not on a cloud, not visible to the ones who are spiritually blind, and we also have Paul saying: ✝ Christianity: 1 Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first;" 4:17 "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." But then Paul further tells us: 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God." So if flesh and blood or the physical body of man cannot inherit heaven or go to or enter heaven, what is the purpose of our physical bodies going up into the clouds to meet Christ? These statements are all of spiritual meaning and symbolic in understanding. None of these statements are to be taken literally so Jesus Christ will not be being seen literally by everybody on this planet any more than he was seen by everybody during his first coming, in which he was born into the world during his first coming.

If there are still questions in some people's hearts about all eyes physically seeing him on his return, Hebrews tells us that the people of the earth will not see the Lord unless they are spiritual holy individuals: ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 12:14 "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" If we are not holy people we will not see the lord when he returns; which again argues that "all eyes will see him" is a symbolic statement and that there will even be people that do physically see him that won't even recognize that they are seeing the return of Christ, because they are

expecting something else to happen instead. Acts 28:26…. "Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:" Eyes will see him, but only those individuals with holiness filling their hearts whose eyes are spiritually open will see him and understand that they are seeing him.

Have faith in God.

76. Have faith in God: One of the key teachings I found, in religion, when I began to study the other religions was the need for the believers to have faith. Yes, having faith in God is a key teaching I found throughout the books of God. Having faith in God is like a corner stone in religion, it must be there: ✝ Christianity: Matthew 17:20 "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Mark 11:22 "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God." ✡ Judaism: Enoch 58: 5 "And after this it shall be said to the holy in heaven That they should seek out the secrets of righteousness, the heritage of faith:" (Apocrypha) Deuteronomy 32:18 "Thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee." Deuteronomy 32:19 "And when the LORD saw it, he abhorred them, because of the provoking of His sons, and of his daughters." Deuteronomy 32:20 "And He said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very forward generation, children in whom is no faith." Habakkuk 2:4 "The just shall live by his faith." Ezra 4, 7. "And every one that shall be saved, and shall be able to Escape by his works, and by faith, whereby ye have believed," (Apocrypha) ✝ Christianity: 1 Corinthians 16:13 "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith," Philippians 1:27 "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;" Romans 1:17 "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." 1 Timothy 4:12 "Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in

conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Titus 2:1 "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine;" 2:2 "be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Have faith, patience and courage -- this is but the beginning, but surely you will succeed, for God is with you!"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 101)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Quaff from the living waters of faith."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 169)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The essence of faith is fewness of words and abundance of deeds; he whose words exceed his deeds, know verily his death is better than his life."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 156)

God is considered to be the Heavenly Father to all of mankind.

77. We are God's children. God is considered to be the Heavenly Father to all of mankind, as well as the paternal Father figure to all the manifestations throughout the religions of God: God is the creator, the Father; is it any wonder that the religions tell us that we are all God's children, His sons and daughters. If all mankind are His children is it any wonder that the manifestations call God their Father and are considered to be His paternal sons. It only stands to reason that if all are the spiritual sons and daughters of the one Heavenly Father, that the various religions would tell us this. Now there are some who would argue this point, but aren't these just word semantics. Christianity: John 5:44 "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the

honour that cometh from God only? 5:45 "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust." (This, kind of, infers that Moses was, along with Jesus Christ, one of (God's), The Father's, sons in this world). And this statement is pretty much indicated with the words of Paul and Moses, when Moses prophesied that God would raise up a prophet like onto him (Moses), and then this prophecy is later on confirmed by The Apostle Paul in the New Testament in Acts: ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;" Deuteronomy 18:18 "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put My words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." Deuteronomy 34:10 "And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face."

Paul pretty much confirms this declaration that Christ and Moses are paternal brothers in a statement in Acts: ✝ Christianity: Acts 3:20 "And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:" Acts 3:22 "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you." Jesus was like unto Moses they were both sons of God or Christ wouldn't be like Moses.

Now I'm sure there are some people who are saying, now wait a minute, Jesus was born of a virgin birth and God is his father, and to this I say, Jesus' conception was miraculous being conceived by the power of the holy ghost, but God did not take on a physical form and come down from heaven and mate with Mary; and how do we know this? Virgin birth! Nobody mated with Mary she was a virgin when Jesus was born. And was God Jesus' father, yes! God is the paternal father symbolically of all His manifestations He has sent to this earth: Jesus and ☪ Islam "the prophets are paternal brothers; their mothers are different, but their religion is one." They are all God's sons, but then again, we are all God's children ourselves according to the writings of the bible: ✡ Judaism: 1 Chronicles 29:10 "Wherefore David

blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our Father, for ever and ever." 29:11 "Thine, O LORD is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all." Isaiah 9:6 "The mighty God, The everlasting Father." Malachi 2:10 "Have we not all one Father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother?" 2. Ezra 1:29 "That ye would be my people, and I should be your God; that ye would be my children, and I should be your Father?" (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Deuteronomy 8:5 "Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee." (as a Father would chastise a favorite son or daughter) Proverbs 3:12 "For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 10:32 "Whosoever therefore shall confess me (Jesus) before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 11:27 "All things are delivered unto me (Jesus) of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him." John 8:41 "Ye do the deeds of your Father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God." John 8:42 "Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but He sent me." John 8:43 "Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word." James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 3:9 "Therewith bless we God, even the Father." Jude 1:1 "Jude the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied." Hebrews 12:7 "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" 12:8 "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." In other words we**

are all sons and daughters of God for we are all too some extent chastised by God. Philippians 4:20 "Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

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 **BAHA'I FAITH: "While a man is happy he may forget his God; but when grief comes and sorrows overwhelm him, then will he remember his Father who is in Heaven, and who is able to deliver him from his humiliations."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 50)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God is one, that He is the Father of us all, that we are all immersed in the ocean of His mercy and sheltered and protected by His loving care."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 119)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Thank God for that He hath awakened thee from thy sleep, found thee after thy being lost and quickened thee after thy death. Verily, I beg God to confirm thee by a power by which thou mayest be enabled to worship God and to serve His Cause and to be submissive and lowly before the beloved of God."**

"Verily, I remember thee in my prayers and in my invocation, beseeching the Heavenly Father, the Lord of Hosts, to confirm thee by a power and cause thee to be firm and to work and serve in the olive garden of God and to be lowly and submissive before His Holy and Exalted Threshold.' 'O thou fortunate and righteous, sincere and pious!'"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 120)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We school you with the rod of wisdom and laws, like unto the father who educateth his son, and this for naught but the protection of your own selves and the elevation of your stations. By My**

life, were ye to discover what We have desired for you in revealing Our holy laws, ye would offer up your very souls for this sacred, this mighty, and most exalted Faith."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 35)

BAHA'I FAITH: "God is the Father of all!" All of mankind, all of the prophets.

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 266)

Fear God.

78. Fear God. The need for the Fear of God seems to be a universal teaching of God taught by all the divine manifestations of God: The fear of God is a teaching found in all the religions of God I have found when studying the books of God but you may ask yourself, just what does the fear of God really mean? And, the answer to this question is found in the Jewish bible in proverbs: Judaism: Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the forward mouth etc...." In other words, the fear of God is living the life God has laid out for us obediently and not necessarily being physically afraid of GOD.

Respectful behavior towards God, His messengers and His teachings may be one way to describe the fear of God. Living your life in the word of God, not outside His teachings, may be another way of putting it; and, the Bahá'í writings confirm this. Bahá'í Faith: "Verily I say, fear of God is the greatest commander that can render the Cause of God victorious, and the hosts which best befit this commander have ever been and are an upright character and pure and goodly deeds." (Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 222) "The fear of God impelleth man to hold fast to that which is good, and shun all evil." (Bahá'u'lláh, Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 125) Whichever way we look at it, the fear of God is a must if we are to follow the writings of God.

The fear of God is a teaching found in Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith that seems to be a universal conundrum throughout all the major world religions. The big question that comes to mind is that if we are to love God and He most certainly loves us then why do all the religious books tell us we need to fear God; and the answer seems to come to us through the experience of parents raising children.  Judaism: Deuteronomy 8:5 "Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee." As a parent we want our children to love us, but we also invoke the parental role of discipline when the child needs to be guided away from behavior that is unbecoming the good moral development of a model citizen of God. In the same way God acts like a good loving parent who is trying to direct us away from behavior that is unhealthy for a developing spirit advancing towards the kingdom of God.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "You ask him about the fear of God: perhaps the friends do not realize that the majority of human beings need the element of fear in order to discipline their conduct? Only a relatively very highly evolved soul would always be disciplined by love alone. Fear of punishment, fear of the anger of God if we do evil, are needed to keep people's feet on the right path. Of course we should love God - but we must fear Him in the sense of a child fearing the righteous anger and chastisement of a parent; not cringe before Him as before a tyrant, but know His Mercy exceeds His Justice!"**

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 238)

 **JUDAISM: Exodus 18:21 "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:" Leviticus 19:14 "Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The heart must be sanctified from every form of selfishness and lust, for the weapons of the unitarians and the saints**

were and are the fear of God. That is the buckler (shield) which guarded man from the arrows of hatred and abomination."

(Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 45)

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 6:2 "That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "For the wise man either seeketh the world or abandoneth it. If he abandoneth it, assuredly he will not regard aught save God, and, apart from this, the fear of God will withhold him from committing forbidden and culpable actions."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 71)

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 6:13 "Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve Him, and shalt swear by His name." Deuteronomy 10:12 "And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul," Joshua 4:24 "That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The leader and commander of these hosts hath ever been the fear of God, a fear that encompasseth all things, and reigneth over all things."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 26)

 **JUDAISM: 2 Kings 17:39 "But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and He shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies." Psalms 6:15 "For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage**

of those that fear thy name." Psalms 25:14 "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear Him; and He will shew them his covenant." Psalms 64:9 "And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of His doing." Psalms 111:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: His praise endureth for ever."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "They must manifest the fear of God by their conduct, their manners, their deeds and their words."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 444)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 2:5 "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God." Proverbs 3:7 "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil." Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the forward mouth, do I hate."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "For such a one is free of personal considerations, of greed and selfish interests, and he has taken refuge within the sheltering protection of his Lord. He will become known among men as trustworthy and truthful, temperate and scrupulous, high-minded and loyal, incorruptible and God-fearing."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 46)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 14:27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. Ecclesiastes 12:13 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Only the keenest insight will detect the fact that if the hearts of these individuals were really impelled by righteousness**

and the fear of God, the fragrance of it would, like musk, be spreading everywhere."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 57)

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 5:24 "Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in His season: He reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest." Jonah 1:9 "And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Purify thou, first, thy soul with the waters of renunciation, and adorn thine head with the crown of the fear of God, and thy temple with the ornament of reliance upon Him."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 2)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 13:16 "Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience." Ephesians 5:21 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." 1 Peter 2:17 "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God." Revelations 19:5 "And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Other attributes of perfection are to fear God, to love God by loving His servants, to exercise mildness and forbearance and calm, to be sincere, amenable, clement and compassionate; to have resolution and courage, trustworthiness and energy, to strive and struggle, to be generous, loyal, without malice, to have zeal and a sense of honor, to be high-minded and magnanimous, and to have regard for the rights of others."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 40)

All of this should tell us to have a healthy respect for God's might and power, and to have a fear of God's wrath. When God has been provoked by the evil of men in the past God has on numerous occasions vented His righteous anger on the folly of men and laid whole regions of the earth to waste. This is attested to by the various writings of God, found in the various books of God if we care to look for it:

Adam and Eve exiled from the garden. ✡ Judaism: Genesis 3:23 "The LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken." Genesis 3:24 "So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." Genesis 6:7 "And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth Me that I have made them." Genesis 6:17 "And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die." Genesis 13:19 "And.....the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar" 19:24 "Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;" Judges 2:11 "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: 2:12 And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger." Judges 2:13 "And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth." Judges 2:14 "And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies." Deuteronomy 6:14 "Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; 6:15 (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth." Numbers 16:30 "But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that

appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD." Numbers 16:31 "And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:" Numbers 16:32 "And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods." Numbers 16:33 "They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation." Numbers 21:5 "And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread." Numbers 21:6 "And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died." 38. "Remember also the 'Ad and the Thamud (people): the Madyan (people) (Remember also) Qarun, Pharaoh, and Haman: they rejected Him" 40. "Each one of them We seized for his crime: of them, against some We sent a violent tornado (with showers of stones); some were caught by a (mighty) Blast; some We caused the earth to swallow up; and some We drowned (in the waters): it was not God Who injured (or oppressed) them: they injured (and oppressed) their own souls." (The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 29)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 5:5 "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." 5:6 "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." 5:7 "Be not ye therefore partakers with them." Romans 1:18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;" 3:13 Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:" 3:14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:" 3:15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood:" 3:16 "Destruction and misery are in their ways:" 3:17 "And the way of peace have they not known:" 3:18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "There is no place of refuge for you, no asylum to which ye can flee, no one to defend or to protect you in this Day from the fury of the wrath of God and from His vehement power, unless and until ye seek the shadow of His Revelation. This, indeed, is His Revelation which hath been manifested unto you in the person of this Youth. Glorified, then, be God for so effulgent, so precious, so wondrous a vision."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 257)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O KING of Berlin! Give ear unto the Voice calling from this manifest Temple: Verily, there is none other God but Me, the Everlasting, the Peerless, the Ancient of Days. Take heed lest pride debar thee from recognizing the Dayspring of Divine Revelation, lest earthly desires shut thee out, as by a veil, from the Lord of the Throne above and of the earth below. Thus counselleth thee the Pen of the Most High. He, verily, is the Most Gracious, the All-Bountiful. Do thou remember the one whose power transcended thy power (Napoleon III), and whose station excelled thy station. Where is he? Whither are gone the things he possessed? Take warning, and be not of them that are fast asleep. He it was who cast the Tablet of God behind him, when We made known unto him what the hosts of tyranny had caused Us to suffer. Wherefore, disgrace assailed him from all sides, and he went down to dust in great loss. Think deeply, O King, concerning him, and concerning them who, like unto thee, have conquered cities and ruled over men. The All-Merciful brought them down from their palaces to their graves. Be warned, be of them who reflect... O banks of the Rhine! We have seen you covered with gore, inasmuch as the swords of retribution were drawn against you; and you shall have another turn. And We hear the lamentations of Berlin, though she be today in conspicuous glory." This of course did happened as Bahá'u'lláh had foretold to the German Kaiser through World War 1 and World War 2. God took His revenge and got justice.**

(Baha'u'llah, The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. 35)

Fear not. Trust in God.

79. Fear not. Trust in God and don't be afraid God is with us: The various writings from the religions of God tell us that, on no one will fear come to them, if they truly know and place their complete trust in God, because He is with us: Judaism: 4 Ezra 6:32 "For thy voice is heard before the most High: for the Mighty hath seen thy righteous dealing, he hath seen also thy chastity, which thou hast had ever since thy youth. And therefore hath he sent me to shew thee all these things, and to say unto thee, Be of good comfort and fear not." Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Proverbs 3:6 "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Isaiah 41:13 "For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." 1 Chronicles 28:20 "Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Christianity: 1 Corinthians 16:10 "Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do." 2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Hebrews 13:6 "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear." Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

BAHA'I FAITH: "In the name of God and by His grace!' immerse thyself therein. Let the fear of no one dismay thee. Trust in the Lord, thy God, for He is sufficient unto whosoever trusteth in Him. He, verily, shall protect thee, and in Him shalt thou abide in safety."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 60)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Whoso hath known God shall know none but Him, and he that feareth God shall be afraid of no one except Him, though the powers of the whole earth rise up and be arrayed against him."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 126)

Few are chosen.

80. Few are chosen: The writings of God tell us that many are called by the word of God, but in reality very few out of that number answer the call or heed the message of God's holy manifestation. Christianity: Luke 13:23 "Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them," 13:24 "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Matthew 7:13 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:" 7:14 "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." 22:14 "For many are called, but few are chosen." John 6:44 "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him:" Judaism: 4 Ezra "And he answered me, saying, 'The most High hath made this world for many, but the world to come for few. There be many created, but few shall be saved. These things have I not shewed unto all men, but unto thee, and a few like thee. For thou art blessed above many other, and art called with the Highest; and so are but few.'" (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Esdras 2)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Many are called but few are chosen."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 364)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Many are called, but few are chosen.' The chosen have heard and understood the call from the divine assembly."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 59)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "I see before me an assemblage of souls who are of the chosen and not of the many called." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 418) "Verily - 'God chooses for His favors whom-so-ever He willeth. He is the Merciful, the Generous!'" (Bahá'í Faith, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v 1 pp. 84)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O My servant, who hast sought the good-pleasure of God and clung to His love on the Day when all except a few who were endued with insight have broken away from Him! May God, through His grace, recompense thee with a generous, an incorruptible and everlasting reward, inasmuch as thou hast sought Him on the Day when eyes were blinded." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 36) "Only a few have as yet quaffed from this peerless, this soft-flowing grace of the Ancient King." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 107)**

Face glowed.

81. Face glowed or shined. This may not seem much like an actual important point of agreement between Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith but light sometimes seen glowing from the faces of God's Holy Messengers seems to be another possible sign of prophethood from the way we find it mentioned in the Holy Writings. From the Holy Bible we know this happened to Moses and Jesus Christ. They both experienced this phenomena at least one time in the bible. ✡ Judaism: Exodus 34:29 "And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him." Exodus 34:30 "And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him." Exodus 34:31 "And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them." Exodus

34:32 "And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai." Exodus 34:33 "And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a veil on his face." Exodus 34:34 "But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the veil off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded." Exodus 34:35 "And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the veil upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him."

We also find that Jesus took some of his disciples up onto a high mountain and Christ's face shined like Moses' face did. Christianity: Matthew 17:1 "And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart," Matthew 17:2 "And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light."

But what is not well known is that the face of Baha'u'llah, when he would talk to the believers, would sometimes glow with an inner light.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Often we saw his dear face illumined by the glow of an inner consuming fire, reflecting the glory of this Order, while with a gentle and convincing voice he would tell of the five-hundred-thousand-year Cycle over which Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation would extend its shield and supremacy."

(Ugo Giachery, Shoghi Effendi - Recollections)

First and the Last.

82. First and the Last: The first and the last are terms sometimes used to describe either God or His Holy Manifestations of Himself as they are repeatedly sent to this world. Christianity: Revelation 1:10 "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great

voice, as of a trumpet, 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last:" Revelations 22:13 "I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." Judaism: Isaiah 44:6 "Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the First, and I am the Last; and beside me there is no God."

BAHA'I FAITH: "If thou be of the inmates of this city within the ocean of divine unity, thou wilt view all the Prophets and Messengers of God as one soul and one body, as one light and one spirit, in such wise that the first among them would be last and the last would be first. For they have all arisen to proclaim His Cause and have established the laws of divine wisdom. They are, one and all, the Manifestations of His Self, the Repositories of His might, the Treasuries of His Revelation, the Dawning-Places of His splendour and the Daysprings of His light. Through them are manifested the signs of sanctity in the realities of all things and the tokens of oneness in the essences of all beings. Through them are revealed the elements of glorification in the heavenly realities and the exponents of praise in the eternal essences. From them hath all creation proceeded and unto them shall return all that hath been mentioned. And since in their inmost Beings they are the same Luminaries and the self-same Mysteries, thou shouldst view their outward conditions in the same light, that thou mayest recognize them all as one Being, nay, find them united in their words, speech, and utterance."

"Wert thou to consider in this station the last of them to be the first, or conversely, thou wouldst indeed be speaking the truth, as hath been ordained by Him Who is the Wellspring of Divinity and the Source of Lordship: 'Say: Call upon God or call upon the All-Merciful: by which-so-ever name ye will, invoke him, for He hath most excellent names. For they are all the Manifestations of the name of God, the Dawning-Places of His attributes, the Repositories of His might, and the Focal Points of His sovereignty, whilst God - magnified be His might and glory - is in His Essence sanctified above all names and exalted beyond even the loftiest attributes. Consider likewise the evidences of divine omnipotence both in their Souls and in their human Temples,

that thine heart may be assured and that thou mayest be of them that speed through the realms of His nearness.

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 32)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "They are all the manifestation of the 'Beginning' and the 'End,' the 'First' and the 'Last,' the 'Seen' and the 'Hidden' -- all of which pertain to Him Who is the Innermost Spirit of Spirits and Eternal Essence of Essences. And were they to say, 'We are the Servants of God,' this also is a manifest and indisputable fact. For they have been made manifest in the uttermost state of servitude, a servitude the like of which no man can possibly attain. Thus in moments in which these Essences of Being were deep immersed beneath the oceans of ancient and everlasting holiness, or when they soared to the loftiest summits of Divine mysteries, they claimed their utterances to be the Voice of Divinity, the Call of God Himself.**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 54)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He is the First and the Last; the Seen and the Hidden; and He knoweth all things!"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries)

Following the ways of our ancestors unquestioningly can blind us to the truth.

83. Following the ways of our ancestors unquestioningly can blind us to the truth: If we follow the ways of our fathers without an open mind we could be like our ancestors who, in the days of the manifestations of God, rejected the manifestation, out of ignorance, and said we have the ways of our fathers why should we believe in your words; thus, thereby, closing the door leading to the gates of heaven to themselves. Christianity: Mark 7:8 "Laying aside the

commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do." 7:9 "Ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." 7:13 "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye." Luke 6:39 "Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

We should always have the doorway of our hearts open to the spirit of the word of God, elsewise we could be like our long lost ancestors who, through closed minds, shut themselves out from the face of God. Christianity: John 8:38 "I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father." Holding strictly to the beliefs, of our ancestors, can blind us to the truth of God's holy message to mankind, which is, for all intents and purposes, staring us right in the face. John 7:45 "Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him (Jesus)?" John 7:46 "The officers answered, Never man spake like this man." John 7:47 "Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?" John 7:48 "Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?" Even the leaders of the religions, in fact, especially the religious leaders, found in the highest positions of their religious faiths fail to see beyond the traditions, dogmas and theologies, leading their congregations of followers down the wrong paths: Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." Matthew 23:1 "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples," 23:2 "Saying The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:" 23:3 "All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."

JUDAISM: Joshua 24:14 "Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD." Joshua 24:15 "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of

the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Judith 5:8 "For they left the way of their ancestors, and worshipped the God of heaven, the God whom they knew: so they cast them out from the face of their gods, and they fled into Mesopotamia, and sojourned there many days." (Apocrypha) Amos 2:4 "Thus saith the LORD…They have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The nations and religions are steeped in blind and bigoted imitations. A man is a Jew because his father was a Jew. The Muslim follows implicitly the footsteps of his ancestors in belief and observance. The Buddhist is true to his heredity as a Buddhist. That is to say, they profess religious belief blindly and without investigation, making unity and agreement impossible. It is evident, therefore, that this condition will not be remedied without a reformation in the world of religion. In other words, the fundamental reality of the divine religions must be renewed, reformed, re-voiced to mankind." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 141)**

"For it is evident they have not found reality and are not engaged in its adoration. They are holding to certain imitations which have descended to them from their fathers and ancestors. They have become accustomed to passing a certain length of time in temple worship and conforming to imitations and ceremonies. The proof of this is that the son of every Jewish father becomes a Jew and not a Christian; the son of every Muslim becomes a follower of Islam; the son of every Christian proves to be a Christian; the son of every Zoroastrian is a Zoroastrian, etc.…Therefore, religious faith and belief is merely a remnant of blind imitations which have descended through fathers and ancestors. Because this man's father was a Jew, he considers himself a Jew. Not that he has investigated reality and proved satisfactorily to himself that Judaism is right -- nay, rather, he is aware that his forefathers have followed this course; therefore, he has held to it himself." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 221)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Nay, each must see with his own eyes, hear with his own ears and investigate the truth himself in order that he may follow the truth instead of blind acquiescence and imitation of ancestral beliefs.”**

(Bahá’í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 246)

Food for the soul.

84. Food for the soul, spiritual food from God: The word and teachings of God are sometimes referred to as spiritual food and nourishment in the writings of God in the various religions of God. It is not uncommon for words that seem to have a literal content to have a spiritual symbolic under tone to the true meaning of the words. Judaism: Amos 8:11 “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:” Amos 8:12 “And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.” Deuteronomy 8:3 “And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.”

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 4:4 “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Luke 4:4 “And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.” Luke 6:25 “Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.” 1 Corinthians 10:1 “Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;” 1 Corinthians 10:3 “And did all eat the same spiritual meat;” 1

Corinthians 10:4 “And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Verily the teachings which flowed from the lips of His Highness Christ were spiritual, celestial, heavenly and the cause of the eternal life; therefore it is explained as heavenly food and the divine table.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 454)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 26:26 “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.” 26:27 “And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;” 26:28 “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.” 1 Corinthians: 11:23 “For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:” 11:24 “And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.” 11:25 “After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.” 11:26 “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.” 11:27 “Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.” 11:28 “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.”**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Among some of the nations of the Orient, music and harmony was not approved of, but the Manifested Light, Bahá'u'lláh, in this glorious period has revealed in Holy Tablets that singing and music are the spiritual food of the hearts and souls.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 378)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Through the manifestation of Christ, the divine teachings, which are an eternal bounty, were spread abroad, the light of guidance shone forth, and the spirit of life was conferred on man. Whoever found guidance became living; whoever remained lost was seized by enduring death. This bread which came down from heaven was the divine body of Christ, His spiritual elements, which the disciples ate, and through which they gained eternal life."**

"The disciples had taken many meals from the hand of Christ; why was the last supper distinguished from the others? It is evident that the heavenly bread did not signify this material bread, but rather the divine nourishment of the spiritual body of Christ, the divine graces and heavenly perfections of which His disciples partook, and with which they became filled."

"In the same way, reflect that when Christ blessed the bread and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'This is My body,' {1} and gave grace to them, He was with them in person, in presence, and form. He was not transformed into bread and wine; if He had been turned into bread and wine, He could not have remained with the disciples in body, in person and in presence." [1 Matt. 26:26.]

"Then it is clear that the bread and wine were symbols which signified: I have given you My bounties and perfections, and when you have received this bounty, you have gained eternal life and have partaken of your share and your portion of the heavenly nourishment."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 98)

The flood.

85. The flood. The story of Noah and the great flood found in the bible is one of the most memorable stories told in the bible. It is a story, like so much of the bible, that is filled with symbolism and

obscure truths hidden in words, but the bible should also be considered a book of reason. ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD." Reason tells us that this story cannot be taken literally at face value. Logic tells us that if waters covered all the land on the earth some five thousand years ago, or even ten thousand years ago the world would be far different then what it is today: Genesis 7:4 "For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth." Genesis 7:19 "And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered." Genesis 7:20 "Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered." Genesis 7:21 "And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:" Genesis 7:22 "All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died." Genesis 7:23 "And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark." Genesis 7:24 "And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days." Genesis 8:3 "And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated." Genesis 8:4 "And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat." Genesis 8:5 "And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen." Genesis 8:10 "And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark;" Genesis 8:11 "And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth." And the question I ask you where did the olive leaf come from if all the earth was covered with water for one hundred and fifty days? All plant life would have died early on, there being no photosynthesis for the land bearing flora under the water. There would be no living olive tree for the bird to pick a leaf off of, let alone a living leaf?

The story of Noah's flood just can't be taken literally. If all life died off on the planet five thousand years ago there would be no diversity in the animal life on the planet. There would only be what small amount of life Noah was able to carry with him on the ark. There would be whole continents without life on them what-so-ever because life in the Mediterranean could not reach the shores of the other land masses; let alone distribute all of the different forms of animal life that are unique to the different continents that are not found worldwide. That is not to mention that most of the vegetation on the planet would have died out if not all of the vegetation having died out. What would be there for the animals to eat? It took millions if not billions of years for life to come out of the sea to cover the land masses. The covering of the land masses with new vegetation would take thousands of years to replenish the earth, if not millions of years. That is not to mention that all of the insect life on the world that assists plants in reproduction would have died out. And what about the animal life? Noah and his family would have to eat them just to survive. Also there would be only one race of humans on the planet not the numerous creeds we see today on the world. Diversity takes years to develop; the color of skin tone doesn't change over night, let alone the shape of eyes and body features.

Now there could have been a localized catastrophe to that area of the planet. it is thought that an ice dam holding back water may have burst covering the world known to Noah with water, there are some places in the world that have been found where there is evidence that a civilization had been quickly covered with water and the houses are still there submerged under the water, but a world ending event did not take place on this earth with the flood. It would take all the ice melting on the planet to cover the land masses with water and that still wouldn't be enough to cover all the land. This has happened before in the past, all the ice melting, and the world was not completely covered even then. That is not to mention that we take ice core samples going back thousands and thousands of years and nothing indicates that all of the ice melted on the planet five thousand years ago.

All of this is not to mention that if flood waters covered the whole earth 5000 years ago there would be great evidence of this disaster worldwide; the evidence is not there. There would be a sedimentary

layer found in the layers of earth that told of a great flood and there is no evidence of a great flood that covered the face of the whole earth some 5000 years ago.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The stories of Hud and Salih are somewhat similar to the story of Noah, the flood and the Ark. They are all symbolic."**

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 4, p. 427)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "ARK -- The word "ark" means, literally, a boat or ship, something that affords protection and safety, or a chest or box. It is used in two senses in the Bible. In the first sense it refers to the Ark of Noah, which He was bidden to build of gopher wood to preserve life during the Flood. In the second sense it refers to the Ark of the Covenant, the sacred chest representing to the Hebrews God's presence among them. It was constructed to hold the Tablets of the Law in Moses' time and was later placed in the Holy of Holies in the Temple of Jerusalem. The Ark, as a symbol of God's Law and the Divine Covenant that is the salvation of the people in every age and Dispensation, appears in various ways in the Bahá'í writings. Bahá'u'lláh refers to His faithful followers as 'the denizens of the Crimson Ark;' He refers to the Ark of the Cause and also to the Ark of His Laws. A well-known passage in which this term is used appears in the Tablet of Carmel: 'Ere long will God sail His Ark upon thee, and will manifest the people of Baha who have been mentioned in the Book of Names.' Shoghi Effendi explains that the Ark in this passage refers to the Bahá'í Administrative Centre on Mount Carmel and that the dwellers of the Ark are the members of the Universal House of Justice."**

(The Universal House of Justice, Messages 1963 to 1986, p. 732)

Forgiveness we are to forgive one another.

86. Forgiveness we are to forgive one another. In the bible, the Bahá'í Faith, and every other major religion that can be thought of, believers ask God for forgiveness for sins as we grow spiritually throughout our lives. But one thing found throughout these religious writings that seems to be forgotten much of the time is the call on man to forgive the sins and trespasses our fellow brothers and sisters have committed against us. Judaism: Genesis 50:17 "So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father...." Sirach 28:2 "Forgive thy neighbour the hurt that he hath done unto thee, so shall thy sins also be forgiven when thou prayest." Wisdom 18:2 "But for that they did not hurt them now, of whom they had been wronged before, they thanked them, and besought them pardon for that they had been enemies." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 6:9 "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Matthew 6:10 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread." Matthew 6:12 "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Matthew 6:14 "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:" Matthew 6:15 "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Every soul of the friends of God must concentrate his mind on this, that he may manifest the mercy of God and the bounty of the Forgiving One."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 18:21 "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" Matthew 18:22 "Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Therefore, if he who is struck forgives, nay, if he acts in a manner contrary to that which has been used toward him, this is laudable."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 267)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 18:26 "The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all." Matthew 18:27 "Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt." Matthew 18:28 "But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest." Matthew 18:32 "Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:" Matthew 18:34 "And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him." Matthew 18:35 "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Should any come to blows with you, seek to be friends with him; should any stab you to the heart, be ye a healing salve unto his sores; should any taunt and mock at you, meet him with love. Should any heap his blame upon you, praise ye him; should he offer you a deadly poison, give him the choicest honey in exchange; and should he threaten your life, grant him a remedy that will heal him evermore. Should he be pain itself, be ye his medicine; should he be thorns, be ye his roses and sweet herbs"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 34)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 11:25 "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." Mark 11:26 "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He must return good for evil, and not only forgive, but also, if possible, be of service to his oppressor. This conduct is worthy of man:"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 269)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 6:37 "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:" Luke 11:4 "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We must look upon our enemies with a sin-covering eye and act with justice when confronted with any injustice whatsoever, forgive all, consider the whole of humanity as our own family, the whole earth as our own country, be sympathetic with all suffering, nurse the sick, offer a shelter to the exiled, help the poor and those in need, dress all wounds and share the happiness of each one."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 41)

God is all forgiving.

87. God is forgiving to us. All God's religions tell us this in their Holy Books. It is plainly visible for all who seek to see:
 **Judaism: Exodus 34:6 "And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth," Exodus 34:7 "Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin," Psalms 103:2 "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:" Psalms 103:3 "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases;" Sirach 2:11 "For the Lord is full of compassion and**

mercy, longsuffering, and very pitiful, and forgiveth sins, and saveth in time of affliction." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 4:31 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:" 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 2 Corinthians 2:10 "To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O Thou forgiving Lord! Thou art the shelter of all these Thy servants. Thou knowest the secrets and art aware of all things. We are all helpless, and Thou art the Mighty, the Omnipotent. We are all sinners, and Thou art the Forgiver of sins, the Merciful, the Compassionate. O Lord! Look not at our shortcomings. Deal with us according to Thy grace and bounty. Our shortcomings are many, but the ocean of Thy forgiveness is boundless. Our weakness is grievous, but the evidences of Thine aid and assistance are clear. Therefore, confirm and strengthen us. Enable us to do that which is worthy of Thy holy Threshold. Illumine our hearts, grant us discerning eyes and attentive ears. Resuscitate the dead and heal the sick. Bestow wealth upon the poor and give peace and security to the fearful. Accept us in Thy kingdom and illumine us with the light of guidance. Thou art the Powerful and the Omnipotent. Thou art the Generous. Thou art the Clement. Thou art the Kind."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 176)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Thou art the Forgiving, the All-Bountiful. There is none other God but Thee, the Ordainer, the Ancient of Days."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 133)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Mystic Dove proclaimeth from its blissful bower, in the everlasting Paradise: 'The source of all bounty is derived, in this Day, from God, the One, the Forgiving!'"**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 35)

Free will is an all-important gift to mankind.

88. Free will! God gives us free will without forcing his children to comply. **Christianity: John 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Free will! Man has free will to do what he chooses when it comes to following the ways of God and God won't force us to comply. In fact, He will help us in whatever endeavor we choose: John 5:45 "for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." In this way we are accountable for only our very own actions and choices and not something God has forced on us.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Man's physical existence on this earth is a period during which the moral exercise of his free will is tried and tested in order to prepare his soul for the other worlds of God,"**

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 367)

 **JUDAISM: Joshua 24:15 "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Children should be Free to Choose Their Own Religion. This applies to us as much as to our children. They should be free to choose for themselves any religion they wish."**

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 156)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 4:25 "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee." Proverbs 4:26 "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established." Psalms 54:6 "I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for it is good."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "By the exercise of his free will, man either affirms his spiritual purpose in life or chooses to perpetuate evil by living below his highest station"**

(The Universal House of Justice, Messages 1963 to 1986, p. 663)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free....." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." James 1:12 "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "For God has created man and has given him free will to choose between good and evil, to follow the Truth or tread the path of error."**

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 3, p. 1)

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 1:25 "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "While the Manifestations of God all shine with the splendours of God's Revelation, they can reveal themselves in only two ways. The first is to appear in their naked glory. Should this happen, all human beings would witness their awesome power, would bow before their majesty and would submit their will entirely to God's Viceregent on earth. People would thus become puppets of God and lose their free will; all would follow the path of truth, not by their own volition but by capitulating to the irresistible power of the Manifestation of God. By the force of God's command, all would obey His teachings and would live a goodly life; no one would have the choice to be different. The Covenant of God would become meaningless because if there were no free will, how could human beings observe the laws of the Covenant? Should the Manifestation of God appear in this way and expose His august attributes to the generality of mankind, people would be devoid of the power of creativity, becoming creatures whose actions were controlled from a higher realm. The principles of justice and of reward and punishment would then become inoperative in society."**

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Child of the Covenant, p. 17)

With free will comes the responsibility of making choices that will affect our soul from now until eternity, but we are not without guidance. God has sent messengers with teachings that will help us to direct our steps on a path that is beneficial to the development of our soul and He will also help guide us on our path to spiritual development: Judaism: Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps." God is there to move advents in our lives that will help with our decision making, but will not interfere with our ability to freely make decisions that are beneficial to our soul or that are detrimental to the spiritual development of our soul; we are free to make such choices.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Some things are subject to the free will of man, such as justice, equity, tyranny and injustice, in other words, good and evil actions; it is evident and clear that these actions are, for the most**

part, left to the will of man. But there are certain things to which man is forced and compelled, such as sleep, death, sickness, decline of power, injuries and misfortunes; these are not subject to the will of man, and he is not responsible for them, for he is compelled to endure them. But in the choice of good and bad actions he is free, and he commits them according to his own will."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 247)

Know by their fruits.

89. Know by their fruits. Know them by their fruits is a maxim found in the bible and the Bahá'í Writings that deals with the hidden nature of man. Jesus Christ uses this phrase to warn his followers about the coming of false prophets telling us how to recognize real prophets from false prophets to help guide us to make the right choices. Christianity: Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Matthew 7:16 "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" Matthew 7:17 "Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit." Matthew 7:18 "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." Matthew 7:19 "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Matthew 7:20 "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

In the Bahá'í Writings the term deeds is often used in place of the term fruits to denote the warning we are given on how to recognize the authenticity of God's Holy Messenger, as well as, how to recognize the upright character of those people we might place our trust in.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Thou hast said aright, that verily, Abdul-Baha looketh to deeds and not words. Even as it was said by Christ, 'Ye shall know them by their fruits.'"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 311)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If his morals become spiritual in character, his aspirations heavenly and his actions conformable to the will of God, man has attained the image and likeness of his Creator; otherwise, he is the image and likeness of Satan. Therefore, Christ hath said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 335)

 **JUDAISM: Hosea 14:8 "Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found."  Christianity: Philippians 1:9 "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;" Philippians 1:10 "That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;" Philippians 1:11 "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The essence of faith is fewness of words and abundance of deeds; he whose words exceed his deeds, know verily his death is better than his life."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 156)

When one is full we must empty our self of all learning to receive what God has for us.

90. When one is full we must empty our self of all learning to receive what God has for us. **Judaism: Proverbs 27:7 "The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet."**

BAHA'I FAITH: "The heart must needs therefore be cleansed from the idle sayings of men, and sanctified from every earthly affection, so that it may discover the hidden meaning of divine inspiration, and become the treasury of the mysteries of divine knowledge. Thus hath it been said: 'He that treadeth the snow-white Path, and followeth in the footsteps of the Crimson Pillar, shall never attain unto his abode unless his hands are empty of those worldly things cherished by men.' This is the prime requisite of whosoever treadeth this path. Ponder thereon, that, with eyes unveiled, thou mayest perceive the truth of these words."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 70)

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 6:25 "Woe unto you that are full!"

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF DUST! Blind thine eyes, that thou mayest behold My beauty; stop thine ears, that thou mayest hearken unto the sweet melody of My voice; empty thyself of all learning, that thou mayest partake of My knowledge; and sanctify thyself from riches, that thou mayest obtain a lasting share from the ocean of My eternal wealth. Blind thine eyes, that is, to all save My beauty; stop thine ears to all save My word; empty thyself of all learning save the knowledge of Me; that with a clear vision, a pure heart and an attentive ear thou mayest enter the court of My holiness."

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

Give should any ask of thee.

91. Give should any ask of thee: To be giving and charitable are well known teachings in The Holy Bible and The Bahá'í Faith. Christianity: Matthew 5:42 "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." Luke 6:30 "Give to every man that asketh of thee;" 6:31 "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." Luke 11:41 "Give alms of such things as ye have;" Judaism: Psalms 2:8 "Ask of me, and I shall give thee." Proverbs 3:27 "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF MAN! Deny not My servant should he ask anything from thee, for his face is My face; be then abashed before Me."

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 7:11 "Your Father which is in heaven gives good things to them that ask him." 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (God loves those that give of their own free will.) Judaism: Deuteronomy 16:17 "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer of the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the

sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 284)

Be giving and the Lord will give more onto you.

92. Be giving and the Lord will give more onto you. In the bible and the Bahá'í Writings we are encouraged to be freely giving and charitable and put our reliance in God. Christianity: 1 Corinthians 13:2 "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." 1 Corinthians 16:14 "Let all your things be done with charity." We are to be charitable with our possessions and in return God, Who is the all giving, will give us more in return. Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Judaism: Proverbs 19:17 "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."

BAHA'I FAITH: "He, verily, shall recompense the charitable, and doubly repay them for what they have bestowed. No God is there but Him."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 278)

CHRISTIANITY: Acts 20:35 "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

BAHA'I FAITH: "He, verily, will pay the doer of good, whether man or woman, his due recompense, wert thou to follow what hath been sent unto thee by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 60)

CHRISTIANITY: Romans 11:35 "Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?"
Romans 11:36 "For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."

BAHA'I FAITH: "This is a Revelation, under which, if a man shed for its sake one drop of blood, myriads of oceans will be his recompense."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 5)

God is forever (eternal).

93. God is forever (eternal). In the writings of the bible we are taught that God is forever, eternal, that He had no beginning and will have no end. Judaism: Deuteronomy 32:39 "See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand." Deuteronomy 32:40 "For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever." Deuteronomy 33:27 "The eternal God is thy refuge," Psalms 45:6 "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever:" Psalms 93:2 "Thy throne is

established of old: thou art from everlasting." Psalms 145:13 "Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." Psalms 90:2 "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Isaiah 43:13 "Yea, before the day was I Am He;" Christianity: Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." 1 Timothy 1:17 "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen." Revelations 1:8 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

The teaching that God is forever, eternal in the past, eternal in the future is also a teaching found in the Bahá'í Faith:

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Lord, thy God He is, and hath from everlasting been, one and alone, without peer or equal, eternal in the past, eternal in the future, detached from all things, ever-abiding, unchangeable, and self-subsisting." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 192) "His power is eternal; His sovereignty will continue forever," (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 5)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Praise be to God, the Eternal that perisheth not, the Everlasting that declineth not, the Self-Subsisting that altereth not. He it is Who is transcendent in His sovereignty, Who is manifest through His signs, and is hidden through His mysteries. He it is at Whose bidding the standard of the Most Exalted Word hath been lifted up in the world of creation, and the banner of 'He doeth what-so-ever He willeth' raised amidst all peoples. He it is Who hath revealed His Cause for the guidance of His creatures, and sent down His verses to demonstrate His Proof and His Testimony, and embellished the preface of the Book of Man with the ornament of utterance through His saying: 'The God of Mercy hath taught the Qur'án, hath created man, and taught him articulate speech.' No God is there but Him, the One, the Peerless, the Powerful, the Mighty, the Beneficent." (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 1) "Forever the glory of God, and the

glory of all that dwell in the kingdom of His revelation." (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 148)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Upon him rest forever the glory of God and the glory of all that dwell in the kingdom of His revelation."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 53)

God causes some not to see.

94. God causes some not to see: In the writings of God's prophets there are some people who are possibly callus of the heart or maybe have done something in their lives to greatly displease God, who God has caused not see the truth least they be saved. Judaism: Exodus 4:21 "And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go." Exodus 7:13 "And He hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said." Exodus 7:14 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go." Isaiah 44:18 "They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand." Isaiah 6:10 "Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed." Christianity: Matthew 13:12 "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Some, O my God, Thou didst, through Thy strengthening grace, enable to approach it, while others Thou didst keep back by reason of what their hands have wrought in Thy days."

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 76)

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 8:10 "And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand." John 9:39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. John 12:37 "But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:" 12:38 "That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?" 12:39 "Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again," John 12:40 "He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them."

BAHA'I FAITH: "God, however, hath veiled your hearts and obscured your eyes, lest ye should apprehend His mysteries and be made aware of their meaning."

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 205)

CHRISTIANITY: Romans 11:8 "(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear) unto this day." Romans 11:10 "Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see," 2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:" 2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Say: O people! Let not this life and its deceits deceive you, for the world and all that is therein is held firmly in the grasp of His Will. He bestoweth His favor on whom He willeth, and from whom He willeth He taketh it away. He doth whatsoever He chooseth. Had the world been of any worth in His sight, He surely would never have allowed His enemies to possess it, even to the

extent of a grain of mustard seed. He hath, however, caused you to be entangled with its affairs, in return for what your hands have wrought in His Cause. This, indeed, is a chastisement which ye, of your own will, have inflicted upon yourselves, could ye but perceive it. Are ye rejoicing in the things which, according to the estimate of God, are contemptible and worthless, things wherewith He proveth the hearts of the doubtful?"

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 209)

God is a Deliverer.

95. God is a Deliverer of mankind: In the writings of the gospel as well as the Bahá'í Writings and other great religions, God is known by many titles, The Deliverer from peril and hardship is just one of His many titles. ✡ Judaism: 2 Samuel 22:2 "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;" Psalms 18:2 "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." Psalms 37:23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way." Psalms 37:24 "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand." David tells us that if a man falls or sins against God, God won't totally abandon him, but will, out of His love, assist him to do better. Psalms 45:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "There is no deliverer for us save Thee."**

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 409)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 40:17 "thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God." Psalms 70:5 "But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying." Psalms 72:12 "For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper."**

CHRISTIANITY: Acts 7:35 "This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush." Acts 7:25 "For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not." 2 Corinthians 1:9 "God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us." 2 Timothy 4:18 "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Thou beholdest me, O my God, like unto a fish moving in anguish upon the earth! Deliver me; then have pity on me, O Thou Deliverer!"

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 243)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Hand of Divine power can, alone, deliver mankind from this desolating affliction."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 13)

God is our guide our teacher our protection.

96. God is our guide our teacher our protection. God is our guide and protector. He leads us and teaches us. This can be verified by studying Christianity, the Baha'i Faith and all of the other major religions of the world we care to look into. Judaism: Psalms 48:14 "For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Be humble and submissive to God and chant the verses of thanksgiving at morn and eve, for that He guided thee unto

the Manifest Light and showed to thee the straight Path and destined to thee the station of nearness in His wonderful Kingdom."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 359)

JUDAISM: Genesis 15:1 "After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." Genesis 24:48 "And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Thank God for guiding thee unto the Straight Path, manifesting unto thee the Evident Light."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 361)

JUDAISM: Genesis 28:20 "God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on," Deuteronomy 8:2 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee." 2 Samuel 22:3 The God of my rock; in Him will I trust: He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. 2 Samuel 22:31 "As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: He is a buckler (shield) to all them that trust in him."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Inasmuch as our God is one God and the creator of all mankind, He provides for and protects all."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 279)

JUDAISM: 2 Samuel 22:33 "God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect." Psalms 3:3 But Thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. Psalms 18:2 "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, (shield) and the horn of my salvation,

and my high tower." Psalms 18:30 "As for God, His way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler (shield) to all those that trust in him."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Through the spirit of the love of God they gained a new life, and they saw Christ living, helping and protecting them."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 106)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 18:32 "It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect." Psalms 28:7 "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him." Psalms 33:20 "Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield." Psalms 40:17 "thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God." Psalms 91:4 "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler." Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." Isaiah 28:23 "Give ye ear, and hear My voice; hearken, and hear My speech." Isaiah 28:26 "For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him." Isaiah 48:17 "Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The object of God's teaching to man is that man may know himself in order to comprehend the greatness of God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 80)

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 42:3 "That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do."**  **Christianity: Hebrews 8:8 "I took them by the hand to lead them." Luke 1:78 "The tender mercy of our God; hath visited us, 1:79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet." 1 Thessalonians 3:11 "Now God himself and our Father, and**

our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto You." John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." 1 Corinthians 2:13 "We speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." 1 John 2:27 "The anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him." 2 Timothy 4:18 "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom: to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Acts 7:25 "For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by His hand would deliver them: but they understood not." Ephesians: 6:13 "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Ephesians 6:14 "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;" 6:15 "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;" 6:16 "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Ephesians 6:17 "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." 2 Thessalonians 3:2 "And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith." 2 Thessalonians 3:3 "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The greatest bestowal of God in the world of humanity is religion; for assuredly the divine teachings of religion are above all other sources of instruction and development to man. Religion confers upon man eternal life and guides his footsteps in the world of morality. It opens the doors of unending happiness and bestows everlasting honor upon the human kingdom. It has been the basis of all civilization and progress in the history of mankind."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 270)

We can't harm or help God no matter what we do.

97. <u>We can't harm or help God no matter what we do. We can only help each other and do what God asks of us</u>. There is nothing we can do, ourselves, for God or against Him that will affect God in any way, what-so-ever. <u>Bábism</u>: "Neither can the devotion of Thy lovers profit Thee, nor the evil doings of the faithless harm Thee."

(The Bab, Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 204)

Christianity tells us we cannot harm or help God, and the other God based, God fearing religions tell us this also. God is far above all, All Knowing, All Encompassing and beyond anything we might think, do or say. 95:3 "For the LORD is a great God, and a great King" "Father of all, above all, and through all, and in you all.") (Psalms and Ephesians)

Clearly this statement indicates that God is far above anything we might think, do, or say and this is clearly backed up by the bible, The Bahá'í Writings and the other God oriented religions of this earth: <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Acts</u> 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" <u>Acts</u> 17:25 "<u>Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing</u>, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;"

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "And when they realized their powerlessness to achieve their purpose, they arose to plot against Him. Witness how every moment they devise a fresh device to harm Him, that they may injure and dishonor the cause of God. Say: Woe be to you! By God! Your schemings cover you with shame. Your Lord, the God of mercy, can well dispense with all creatures. Nothing whatever can either increase or diminish the things He doth possess. If ye believe, to your own behoof will ye believe; and if ye believe not, ye yourselves will suffer. At no time can the hand of the infidel profane the hem of His Robe."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 147)

 **JUDAISM: 2 Chronicles 19:7 "Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts." Psalms 116:12 "What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?" 1 Chronicles "For all things come of Thee, and of Thine own." What can we possibly do to help or harm God, as if he had need of anything? 2 Chronicles 14:11 "LORD, it is nothing with thee to help." Job 21:22 "Shall any teach God knowledge? seeing He judgeth those that are high." Job 41:11 "Who hath prevented Me, that I should repay him? what-so-ever is under the whole heaven is Mine."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is for the sake of God alone that My tongue counselleth you and that My pen moveth to make mention of you, for neither can the malice and denial of all who dwell on earth harm Me, nor the allegiance of the entire creation profit Me. We, verily, exhort you unto that which We were commanded, and desire naught from you except that ye draw nigh unto what shall profit you in both this world and the world to come."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 87)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Consider the mercy of God and His gifts. He enjoineth upon you that which shall profit you, though He Himself can well dispense with all creatures. Your evil doings can never harm Us, neither can your good works profit Us."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 140)

God does what he chooses and He will not be asked of His doings.

98. God does what he chooses and He will not be asked of His doings. In the writings of the Baha'i Faith it is stressed that God will not be ask of His doings, He doeth what-so-ever He pleaseth:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He ordaineth as He pleaseth, by virtue of His sovereignty, and doeth whatsoever He willeth at His own behest. He shall not be asked of the things it pleaseth Him to ordain. He, in truth, is the Unrestrained, the All-Powerful, the All-Wise."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 284)

We can also find that God will not be asked of His doings in the bible.  **Judaism: Psalms 115:3 "But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased." We also find that God will not be asked of His doings in the book of Job: Job 38:1 "Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said," Job 38:2 "Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" Job 38:3 "Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me." Job 38:4 "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding." Job 38:5 "Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?" Job 38:6 "Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;" Job 38:7 "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" Job 38:8 "Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?" Job 41:11 "Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He, verily, doeth what He willeth, and ordaineth that which He pleaseth."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 116)

 **JUDAISM: Ecclesiastes 8:3 ".....for He doeth whatsoever pleaseth Him." Ezekiel 20:3 "As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whenever My laws appear like the sun in the heaven of Mine utterance, they must be faithfully obeyed by all, though My decree be such as to cause the heaven of every religion to be cleft asunder. He doeth what He pleaseth. He chooseth, and none may question His choice."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 21)

A question that comes to mind when you say God does what pleaseth Him is why does it please God to put people under such hardships? And, the answer is God does not look at things the way we do, ✡ **Judaism: 1 Samuel 16:7 "the LORD seeth not as man seeth;" (see God does not look at things the way we do, for more information.) God does not look at things the way we do. When it comes to life there is a lot of guess work involved. We might say to ourselves if I buy in will this stock go up or if I get pregnant what will I have a boy or a girl? God doesn't have this kind of guess work going on. When it comes to what would be a question for us God already knows the answer. He already knows what we need before we even ask.** ✝ **Christianity: Matthew 6:8 "Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." God knows what we need, but what we need is not always what we want. We might want gold and the pleasures of this world but that is not necessarily what is good for us. 1 Corinthians 1:27 "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;"**

God knows the seen and the unseen so when it comes to that which is spiritually good for us God is the authority. He is like a parent taking away matches from a small child; though the child is grieved the good parent knows what is best for the child. The good parent only has the child's best interests at heart. God is trying to help us develop spiritually so we will be fit for life in the next realm. ✡ **Judaism: Ecclesiastes 2:26 "For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight," That which is good in the next life is not necessarily that which seems good here, but God, like the good parent, only wants what is spiritually best for us not that which is best suited for life on this plane of**

existence. God, in reality, only wants for us that which He wants for Himself:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know thou, that I have wafted unto thee all the fragrances of holiness, have fully revealed to thee My word, have perfected through thee My bounty and have desired for thee that which I have desired for My Self. Be then content with My pleasure and thankful unto Me."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

 **JUDAISM: Job 33:12 "God is greater than man." Job 33:13 "He giveth not account of any of his matters." Psalms 16:4 "The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil." Ecclesiastes 3:14 "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him." Isaiah 46:10 "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." Isaiah 48:14 "All ye, assemble yourselves, and hear; which among them hath declared these things? The LORD hath loved him: he will do his pleasure on Babylon, and His arm shall be on the Chaldeans."**  **Christianity: Romans 9:20 "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God doth not ask you of your sciences, but of your faith and of your conduct. Are ye greater in wisdom than the One Who brought you into being, Who fashioned the heavens and all that they contain, the earth and all that dwell upon it? Gracious God! True wisdom is His. All creation and its empire are His. He bestoweth His wisdom upon whomsoever He chooseth amongst men, and with holdeth it from whomsoever He desireth. He, in truth, is the Bestower and the Withholder, and He, verily, is the All-Bountiful, the All-Wise."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 237)

God takes care of all whether good or bad.

99. God takes care of all whether good or bad. God takes care of us regardless of our actions in this life; He gave us free-will and does not force man to comply with His laws and ordinances. That does not mean that we won't be held accountable for our actions in this life: Judaism: Proverbs 24:12 "If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?" We will be held accountable for our actions in this life in the next life, but in this life God will help us and give us the necessities we need for this world without forcing us to adopt His teachings and this is because He gave us a freewill and for Him to force us to comply to His decree would not be allowing us to exercise our freewill. Christianity: Matthew 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

BAHA'I FAITH: "In the eyes of the Creator all His children are equal; His goodness is poured forth on all."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 138)

God does not choose to force His children to comply with His command; in fact, God will assist us on which ever path we choose in order to not force us to bend to His decree: Judaism: Psalms 125:5 "As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "The inaction or the movement of man depend upon the assistance of God. If he is not aided, he is not able to do either good or evil. But when the help of existence comes from the Generous Lord, he is able to do both good and evil; but if the help is cut off, he remains absolutely helpless. This is why in the Holy Books they speak of the help and assistance of God. So this condition is like that of a ship which is moved by the power of the wind or steam; if this power

ceases, the ship cannot move at all. Nevertheless, the rudder of the ship turns it to either side, and the power of the steam moves it in the desired direction. If it is directed to the east, it goes to the east; or if it is directed to the west, it goes to the west. This motion does not come from the ship; no, it comes from the wind or the steam."

"In the same way, in all the action or inaction of man, he receives power from the help of God; but the choice of good or evil belongs to the man himself."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 248)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 6:35 "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It would be impossible to find an artist who does not love his own production. Have you ever seen a man who did not love his own actions? Even though they be bad actions, he loves them. How ignorant, therefore, the thought that God, Who created man, educated and nurtured him, surrounded him with all blessings, made the sun and all phenomenal existence for his benefit, bestowed upon him tenderness and kindness and then did not love him. This is palpable ignorance, for no matter to what religion a man belongs, even though he be an atheist or materialist, nevertheless, God nurtures him, bestows His kindness and sheds upon him His light."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

God is our refuge.

100. God is our refuge: What other refuge is there for mankind to really seek? Can the idols of our own vain imaginings really assist us. We can try and strive on our own, but are we really working outside of

God's ultimate power and control. God gives us the choice of making decisions for our ultimate good or for our own bitter downfall, what else is there we can really control. We can help or harm one another, but is that really going above a choice we are making. If we really want to be plugged into what is really going on in the universe we come right back to the creator of all. You can either swim against the tide of the workings of the universe, or you can get plugged in and let all your worries go to the way side as you take God as your refuge and let Him ultimately take care of you. But don't get this confused, God expects action on our parts; He has given us books and guidelines of which we can use to make our plans and decisions. But the ultimate decision relies on us; God won't do it for you. (See freewill for more information) This information is reflected in the religions of God but much is left to interpretation.  Judaism: Psalms 62:7 "In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God is our refuge!"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 30)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 18:2 "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." Psalms 91:2 "I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust." Psalms 94:22 But the LORD is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge. Jeremiah 16:19 "O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge."**  **Christianity: Acts 7:35 "This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush." Ephesians 6:13 "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." 6:14 "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;" 6:15 "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;" 6:16 "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." 2 Corinthians 1:9 "We should not trust in ourselves, but in God which**

raiseth the dead:" 1:10 "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;" and be our refuge. 2 Thessalonians 3:1 "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:" 3:2 "And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith." 3:3 "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil." Hebrews 13:6 "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." He is my refuge. 1 Timothy 2:3 "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God (our refuge) our Saviour; 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Let us take refuge in God"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 335)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O my Lord, verily I seek refuge with Thee from the very thought of such an act, which is contrary to all the commandments of Bahá'u'lláh, and which would indeed be a mighty wrong that none but a grievous sinner would ever perpetrate." (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, page 217"**
"O God Omnipotent, do Thou shield us and be our refuge and, O Lord of Being, show forth Thy might and Thy dominion." (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, page 313)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "I take refuge with my Lord, and your Lord." (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 64) "Seek refuge with God, the Lord of all Religions." (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 32)**

God helps direct our steps if we allow Him.

101. God helps direct our steps if we allow Him: Judaism: Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps." A man has free will to make choices in this life. He can choose to do a good deed or do something bad and God won't interfere with his decision making; but in the overall matters of this life God is in control and He is directing or guiding our steps and events are not just happening randomly. Proverbs 20:24 "Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?" Isaiah 45:13 "I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts." Isaiah 61:8 "For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them."

CHRISTIANITY: James 4:15 "For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." 1 Thessalonians 3:11 "Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you." 2 Thessalonians 3:5 "And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Mankind needs a universal motive power to quicken it. The inspired messenger who is directly assisted by the power of God brings about universal results." (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 88)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Some things are subject to the free will of man, such as justice, equity, tyranny and injustice, in other words, good and evil actions; it is evident and clear that these actions are, for the most part, left to the will of man. But there are certain things to which man is forced and compelled, such as sleep, death, sickness, decline of power, injuries and misfortunes; these are not subject to the will of man, and he is not responsible for them, for he is compelled to endure them. But in the choice of good and bad actions he is free, and he commits them according to his own will." (Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 248)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Heavenly Books, the Bible, the Qur'án, and the other Holy Writings have been given by God as guides into the paths of Divine virtue, love, justice and peace." (Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 61)

God does not look at things the way we do.

102. God does not look at things the way we do. God does not look at things the way we do. We see the finite God sees the infinite. We only see the occurrences that happen on this small world around us, while God sees everything in the universe. Is it any wonder that man repeatedly misinterprets God's word and rejects His holy messengers? Judaism: 1 Samuel 16:7 "the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart." We see only what is visible to our own two eyes, while God sees beyond everything right into our hearts and minds.

BAHA'I FAITH: "All earthly places appear through Him and unto Him return, and God singly and alone abideth in His own place which is holy above space and time, mention and utterance, sign, description, and definition, height and depth. And none knoweth this save Him and whosoever hath knowledge of the Book. There is no God but Him, the Mighty, the Bountiful."

(Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 64)

JUDAISM: Isaiah 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD." Our thoughts are different from those of God because we only understand the finite, which is demonstrated in our actions and behavior.

BAHA'I FAITH: "God's thoughts are not like our thoughts!"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 147)

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 55:9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." Our thoughts and actions are motivated by self-interests and what we think we know and understand, while God understands all and His actions are motivated by what is best for all mankind.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O Seekers for the Kingdom of God! Man all over the world is seeking for God. All that exists is God; but the Reality of Divinity is holy above all understanding."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 22)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 3:31 "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: He that cometh from heaven is above all." John 3:12 "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" We that are born of this earth think earthy thoughts, while God is in heaven and His thoughts are heavenly. If we only look at the world around us and keep our thoughts focused on that which is of the world we fail to see that which is beyond.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF DESIRE! Give ear unto this: Never shall mortal eye recognize the everlasting Beauty, nor the lifeless heart delight in aught but in the withered bloom. For like seeketh like, and taketh pleasure in the company of its kind."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

The word of God is of the spirit and must be looked at through spiritual eyesight not worldly eyesight:  Christianity: John 4:23 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit...." For, John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit...." If we are going to try and understand God's Holy Word we are going to have to try and look beyond the physical word and try and see the spiritual meaning within

the words of God. 1 Corinthians 2:11 "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." If we just see the physical words without looking for the deeper spiritual message we are doing no better than the Jewish religious leaders in the days of Christ who held onto the literal words of the Torah and completely missed the beauty of Jesus Christ; and, in the words of Paul, the letter of the word by itself kills, not the physical body but the soul and spirit: 2 Corinthians 3:6 "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Immeasurably exalted is God above all that we may conceive of the Revealers of His Cause, and immensely glorified is He beyond all that they may mention in His regard!"

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 32)

We are created in God's image and God is of the spirit not physical, so our true God like image is of the spirit as well and not this physical body.

103. We are created in God's image and God is of the spirit not physical, so our true God like image is of the spirit as well and not this physical body. We are created in God's image so the writings of the bible and the Bahá'í Faith tell us, but what image is it that we are created in we may ask ourselves; God doesn't appear to be physical? Judaism: Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:" Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Christianity: John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit...." It seems that if we are all created in Gods image then our true God like image is spiritual not this physical body that is prone to

sickness and disease, blemishes and defects. God is perfection Matthew 5:48 "Your Father which is in heaven is perfect." And since we are in His image it has to be the spirit of man that's in God's image, because if it was this physical body our bodies would have to be perfect without defects or blemishes; nor would our bodies decay with old age.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The reality of man shall develop and come forth as the image of God his creator."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 234)

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Man became a living soul or man became a living spirit, which, as I said, makes man the image of his Creator.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Minds are developed, hopes brighten, aspirations become spiritual, the virtues of the human world appear with freshened power of growth and the image and likeness of God become visible in man."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 255)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 2:11 "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." 1 Corinthians 2:12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When man thus adorns himself, he will progress every day with new vigor; his soul will become more and more sensitized and the laws and morals of the world will be reconstructed with divine conviction. Then man will make real discoveries, penetrate**

the mysteries and so reflect them that he will become the image of God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 59)

CHRISTIANITY: John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." It is not the body of man, the flesh, that is of importance to God. Christ tells us the flesh profiteth nothing. The body of man is of no importance to God.

BAHA'I FAITH: "If his attitude is just and loving toward his fellow men, toward all creation, then indeed is he worthy of being pronounced the image and likeness of God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 79)

So again I repeat: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." He is a spirit and we are spiritual in essence. Christ is pretty clear on this if we can perceive with our mortal eyes the true nature of man.

BAHA'I FAITH: "We must strive with heart and soul in order that this darkness of the contingent world may be dispelled, that the lights of the Kingdom shall shine upon all the horizons, the world of humanity become illumined, the image of God become apparent in human mirrors, the law of God be well established and that all regions of the world shall enjoy peace, comfort and composure beneath the equitable protection of God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 73)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;" This verse from Paul comes straight to the point. Flesh and blood, the physical body of

man, cannot exist in heaven. Only the spiritual essence of man, the spirit created in God's image, can exist in the realm of God.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In a word, the 'image and likeness of God' constitute the virtues of God, and man is intended to become the recipient of the effulgence's of divine attributes."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 93)

God is inside of us.

104. God is inside of us: Christianity: Ephesians 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." The writings of the Holy Bible and The Bahá'í Faith tell us, not only is the essence of God present throughout the whole universe, but the essence of God is also found inside of us. Judaism: Ezekiel 20:41 ".....I will be sanctified in you before the heathen." Ezekiel 36:23 ".....when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes." Ezekiel 37:14 "And shall put My spirit in you, and ye shall live,"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Man's power to comprehend, move, speak, hear, and see all derive from this sign of his Lord within him."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 154)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 10:20 "For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." John 14:17 "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." John 14:20 "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." Romans 8: 9 ".....the Spirit of God dwell in you." 1 Corinthians 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" 2 Corinthians 6:16 "Ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said,

I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." 1 Corinthians 14:25 ".....God is in you of a truth."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF BEING! Thy heart is My home; sanctify it for My descent. Thy spirit is My place of revelation; cleanse it for My manifestation."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

God knows the secrets of our hearts.

105. God knows the secrets of our hearts. In the bible and the Bahá'í Faith we are told that God is the all-knowing: Christianity: 1 John 3:20 "God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All praise be to God, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 115)

Therefore if God is the all-knowing it stands to reason that God knows the secrets of our hearts and thoughts. Judaism: 1 Kings 8:39 "Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;" Psalms 44:21 "Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart." 1 Chronicles 28:9 "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O HEEDLESS ONES! Think not the secrets of hearts are hidden, nay, know ye of a certainty that in clear characters they are engraved and are openly manifest in the holy Presence."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 16:15 "And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." God knows the secrets and mysteries in our hearts. This is clearly indicated in the bible. It is also clearly indicated in the Bahá'í Faith demonstrating, once again, that Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith both have their roots coming to mankind from the same source the one and only Almighty Father and God of heavenly glories.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O FRIENDS! Verily I say, whatsoever ye have concealed within your hearts is to Us open and manifest as the day; but that it is hidden is of Our grace and favor, and not of your deserving."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 1:24 "And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen," Acts 15:8 "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;" Romans 8:27 "And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." 1 John 3:20 "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All praise be to Thee, O Thou the Desire of the worlds!' In truth, it is in the hand of God to give what He willeth to whomsoever He willeth, and to withhold what He pleaseth from**

whomsoever He may wish. He knoweth the inner secrets of the hearts."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 76)

GOD LOVES US BUT HAS NO NEED OF US.

106. <u>GOD LOVES US BUT HAS NO NEED OF US</u>. In the Holy Writings God does much for mankind, but when you stop and think about it what can we do for Him? ✡ <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Job</u> 35:6 "If thou sinnest, what doest thou against Him? or if thy transgressions be multiplied, what doest thou unto Him?" <u>Job</u> 35:7 "If thou be righteous, what givest thou Him? or what receiveth He of thine hand?"

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "People in this world are in need of God, they will also need Him in the other world. The creatures are always in need, and God is absolutely independent, whether in this world or in the world to come."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 329)

There is nothing that we humans can really do for our creator in this life that will in reality have an effect on God. We are reliant on Him not Him on us.

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Your Lord, the God of mercy, can well dispense with all creatures. Nothing whatever can either increase or diminish the things He doth possess. If ye believe, to your own behoof will ye believe; and if ye believe not, ye yourselves will suffer. At no time can the hand of the infidel profane the hem of His Robe."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 147)

This teaching is also found in the New Testament: ✝ <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Acts</u> 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he

is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" Acts 17:25 "Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Verily Thou art God; no God is there but Thee. Alone and unaided, Thou art independent of all created things. Neither can the devotion of Thy lovers profit Thee, nor the evil doings of the faithless harm Thee. Verily Thou art my God, He Who will never fail in His promise."

(The Báb, Selections from the Writings of the Báb, p. 205)

CHRISTIANITY: Romans 3:3 "For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Consider the mercy of God and His gifts. He enjoineth upon you that which shall profit you, though He Himself can well dispense with all creatures. Your evil doings can never harm Us, neither can your good works profit Us. We summon you wholly for the sake of God. To this every man of understanding and insight will testify."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 40)

God is first in the eyes of the prophets.

107. God is first in the eyes of the prophets and the prophets do not consider themselves to be God. In the writings of the Bahá'í Faith references are found to Jesus Christ not being God incarnate on the earth, but Jesus being Gods messenger and prophet on this earth; as well as being God's son. This notion may be disturbing to some Christian believers but this concept is also found in the holy bible when we study the words of Christ. Christianity: John

13:16 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord; neither he that is sent greater than He that sent him.” John 6:38 “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me.”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Nothing have I perceived except that I perceived God before it, God after it, or God with it."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 113)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 6:39 “And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which He hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.” John 6:40 “And this is the will of Him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Immeasurably exalted is God above all that we may conceive of the Revealers of His Cause, and immensely glorified is He beyond all that they may mention in His regard!”**

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 32)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 19:16 “And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” Matthew 19:17 “And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God…” Mark 10:18 “And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.” Jesus didn’t even consider himself worthy of the title good in comparison to just the thought of the glory of his father.**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Nothing whatsoever shall, in this Day, be accepted from you, though ye continue to worship and prostrate yourselves before God throughout the eternity of His dominion. For all things are dependent upon His Will, and the worth of all acts is conditioned upon**

His acceptance and pleasure. The whole universe is but a handful of clay in His grasp."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 293)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 8:28 "Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things."**

Confusion comes into play when comparing the son to the father by the fact that Jesus and the other messengers, though not the physical incarnations of God on this earth, are the image of God on this earth:  **Christianity: 2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:" 2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." Colossians 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" 1:14 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God,"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Is the Divine Manifestation, God?" "Yes, and yet not in Essence. A Divine Manifestation is as a mirror reflecting the light of the Sun. The light is the same and yet the mirror is not the Sun. All the Manifestations of God bring the same Light; they only differ in degree, not in reality. The Truth is one. The light is the same though the lamps may be different; we must look at the Light not at the Lamp. If we accept the Light in one, we must accept the Light in all; all agree, because all are the same. The teaching is ever the same, it is only the outward forms that change."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 66)

Truly seek God and you will be guided to find Him.

108. Truly seek God and you will find Him. ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 4:29 "But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul."

BAHA'I FAITH: "He saith, and He verily speaketh the truth: 'Whoso maketh efforts for Us, in Our ways shall We assuredly guide him.'"

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 27)

We must make effort to seek God if we really want to find Him and know Him. ✡ Judaism: 2 Chronicles 15:12 "And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;" Jeremiah 29:13 "And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart." ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Anyone can say we believe, but nothing comes without work. With the effort we make to better know and love God comes the blessings of God's love and divine guidance descending upon us. James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Whensoever he hath fulfilled the conditions implied in the verse: 'Whoso maketh efforts for Us,' he shall enjoy the blessings conferred by the words: 'In Our Ways shall We assuredly guide him.'"

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 266)

The good in this world comes to us from God up above.

109. The good in this world comes to us from God up above.
God is the giving and God takes care of us. In fact, the religions of God tell us that God only desires that which is good for us: Christianity: 2 Corinthians 5:18 "And all things are of God," James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

BAHA'I FAITH: "We, verily, desire for you naught save what shall profit you, and to this bear witness all created things, had ye but ears to hear."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 75)

JUDAISM: Tobias 19. "Bless the Lord thy God always the Lord himself giveth all good things." 1 Chronicles 29:14 "All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee." 1 Chronicles 29:12 "Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all; and in Thine hand is power and might; and in Thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all."

BAHA'I FAITH: "For God hath ordained every good thing, whether created in the heavens or in the earth."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 276)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know thou, that I have wafted unto thee all the fragrances of holiness, have fully revealed to thee My word, have perfected through thee My bounty and have desired for thee that which I have desired for My Self. Be then content with My pleasure and thankful unto Me."

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words 70)

Good works and good deeds go with the statement I believe.

110. Good works and good deeds go with the statement I believe: In the Bahá'í faith we are told that good deeds or good works is how we should conduct ourselves if we truly want to do God's will; for words are the property of all, while a true man is known by his fruits or deeds. This is also true of Christianity as well. Christianity: James 1:22 "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:23 "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:" James 1:24 "For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Every one must show forth deeds that are pure and holy, for words are the property of all alike, whereas such deeds as these belong only to Our loved ones,"

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 3:18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

In Christianity the need for good works and deeds, as well as the need for a good conduct and morals becomes apparent the more we read through the bible. Christianity: John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:21 "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." Judaism: Exodus 24:7 "And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient." Deuteronomy 5:1 "And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes

and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them." Deuteronomy 10:12 "And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul," 1 Samuel 2:3 "Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by Him actions are weighed." 2 Samuel 3:39 "The LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness." 2 Chronicles 6:30 "Then hear Thou from heaven Thy dwelling place, and forgive, and render unto every man according unto all his ways, whose heart Thou knowest; for Thou only knowest the hearts of the children of men:" Proverbs 16:3 "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whoso keepeth the commandments of God shall attain everlasting felicity."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 289)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 24:12 "If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not He that pondereth the heart consider it? and He that keepeth thy soul, doth not He know it? and shall not He render to every man according to his works?" Proverbs 31:30 "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:31 "Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Walk ye in the fear of God, and render not your works vain."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 256)

 **JUDAISM: Ecclesiastes 3:21 "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?" Ecclesiastes 3:22 "Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his**

portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?" Nehemiah 13:14 "Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof." Psalms 28:4 "Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert."

BAHA'I FAITH: "If ye find it to be established in truth, if ye believe it to be of God, beware, then, lest ye cavil at it, and render your works vain, and be numbered with the infidels."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 281)

JUDAISM: Isaiah 3:10 "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings." Jeremiah 6:19 "Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto My words, nor to My law, but rejected it." Jeremiah 25:14 "For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands." 2 Samuel 22:21 "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath He recompensed me." Amos 8:7 "The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works."

BAHA'I FAITH: "May He bless abundantly your work in the Divine Vineyard, and enable you to render still greater services in the days to come."

(Compilations, Bahiyyih Khanum, p. 46)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:15 "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house." Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To attain to true glory and honour, man should exercise justice and equity, forbear to act in an oppressive manner, render service to his government, and work for the good of his fellow-citizens."**

(Compilations, The Compilation of Compilations vol II, p. 345)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 7: 21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 16:26 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God will work through you, even if it is not in your lifetime -- the lifetime of generations after you. All services will be rewarded."**

(Compilations, Quickeners of Mankind, p. 108)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 23:1 "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples," 23:2 "Saying The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:" 23:3 "All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not." Luke 11:28 "But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." John 8:39 "They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham." John 10:37 "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not." Corinthians 11:15 "Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" 2 Timothy 3:17 "That the man of God may be**

perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." Titus 1:16 "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The most arduous duties win the greatest spiritual rewards."**

(Shoghi Effendi, Dawn of a New Day, p. 175)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Titus 2:7 "In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity," Titus 3:8 "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." James 2:14 "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If a man were to perform every good work, yet fail in the least scruple to be entirely trustworthy and honest, his good works would become as dry tinder and his failure as a soul-consuming fire."**

(Compilations, The Compilation of Compilations vol II, p. 339)

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 2:15 "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food," James 2:16 "And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" James 2:17 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." James 2:18 "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Pleasing and acceptable as is a righteous person before God's Holy Threshold, yet good works should proceed from knowledge"**

(The Universal House of Justice, 1996 Oct 22, Authentication and Authority)

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 2:19 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." James 2:20 "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" James 2:21 "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?" James 2:22 "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" James 2:23 "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God." James 2:24 "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." James 2:25 "Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?" James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." James 3:13 "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The key to heaven is to testify to the truth of God and to do good works."**

(Marzieh Gail, p. 10)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 23:40 "But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?" Luke 23:41 "And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Strive to attain nearness to reality through the acquisition of strength of character, through morality, through good works"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 99)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 23:42 "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Luke 23:43 "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." Revelations 20:12 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelations 20:13 "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The more you strive to overcome these, the greater will be your reward, and the nearer you will get to that glorious success which, as repeatedly promised by Bahá'u'lláh, must needs crown the efforts of all those who, whole-heartedly and with pure detachment, strive to work for the spread and establishment of His Cause."**

(Shoghi Effendi, The Unfolding Destiny of the British Baha'i Community, p. 107)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 3: 8 "Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:" 1 John 3:17 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" 1 John 3:18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whosoever has a pure heart and renders good deeds is nearer to God." "I, therefore, pray to God that you may be strengthened in good deeds."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, pp. 300, 457)

Good Works according to the writings of Paul.

111. Good Works according to the writings of Paul. You may be asking why I would have a whole section on good works related strictly to The Apostle Paul while I have another section on Good Works that spans the whole bible. Many followers of the bible are strict believers in the writings of The Apostle Paul. Some of these believers take it so far that some of these people ignore what the rest of the bible has to say about certain topics and follow only what they feel Paul is telling them, even if the literal interpretation of the statement goes against the rest of the bible. What I am talking about are Paul's statements, for one thing, statements he makes about having faith over works or deeds in the New Testament; but there are some other things we should look at first before we attend to this subject, you see:

 **CHRISTIANITY: Peter tells us, 2 Peter: 3:15 "Our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given unto him, hath written unto you;" 3:16 "as also, in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood." You see, Peter clearly tells us that the writings and teachings of Paul are very confusing, and very hard to understand; which he then also tells us: 3:16 "they that are unlearned and unstable wrest (or wrestle with his teachings, which can lead to more confusion and more misinterpretation, which in turn can lead), unto their own destruction." So Peter further tells us: 3:17 "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness." And then fall 3:16 "unto their own destruction," 2 Timothy: 4:3 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts, shall they heap to**

themselves teachers, having itching ears;" 4:4 "and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables;" Colossians: 2:22 "which all are to perish with the using; after the commandments and doctrines of men?" 1 Timothy: 4:7 So, "refuse profane and old wives' fables;" and 1:4 "neither give heed to fables." Romans: 16:17 "Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause divisions," Ephesians: 4:14 "that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Titus: Therefore guard yourselves, 1:14 "not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men, that turn from the truth."

So you see there is a very big possibility for confusion and misunderstanding here within the writings of Paul, according to Peter, who was the one chosen by Jesus to follow him in leadership after his death. Another thing that needs to be understood about the teachings of Paul:

 CHRISTIANITY: Galatians: 3:15 "Brethren, I (Paul) speak after the manner of men; (with the words of a man) Though it be but a man's covenant." And, 1 Corinthians: 7:25 "I have no commandment of The Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of The Lord to be faithful." And so, 11:13 "Judge in yourselves." 11:16 "But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." And again, Romans: 6:19 "I speak after the manner of men (the words of a man)." So this is something that also leads to confusion, for mankind, within the Holy Writings of The Creator; Paul is giving us his opinion on some of these things, not gospel fact. If I run into any discrepancies between what Paul states, and what Jesus Christ has to say or do; I go with the words and actions of Jesus Christ every time. Anyway getting back to the topic at hand:

 CHRISTIANITY: Romans 3:28 "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." Galatians 2:16 "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." Titus 3:5

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" Some people read these statements and other statements like these and they believe Paul is telling them we don't have to follow the laws of the bible. Some of these people believe we don't have to do good deeds; indeed we don't even have to be nice to one another. We only need to have faith in God and we are saved regardless of what we do. This is not what Paul is saying! Paul didn't say that the law is null and void through faith Romans 3:31 "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." Paul states he is establishing the law not dismissing the law. Then one must ask themselves just what it is Paul is trying to do to the law and just what it is he's saying about the way we should behave? This isn't an easy question to answer; but it is one that relates back to how Christ was treated by the Jewish clergy.

The Jewish clergy held on tightly to the laws of The Old Testament. The Jewish people and the clergy also held on tightly to the rites and rituals found in The Old Testament. These rites and rituals that men performed were also known as works. ✡ Judaism: Exodus 23:24 "Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works:" So, if you were performing the rites of sacrificing a lamb for forgiveness of sins you were performing works onto God. Proverbs 16:3 "Commit thy works unto the LORD," And, if you were turning away from God and serving other gods you were performing works that brought down the wrath of God. 2 Kings 22:17 "Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands;" So, the term works spoken of by The Apostle Paul had two meanings. One of those meanings dealt with the outward trappings of the religion the rites and rituals performed in the name of God. These works had grown dark and empty, devoid of feeling, dead to the world by the time Christ made his appearance on the earth. But, it was these outward trappings, these empty rituals and out dated laws that the Jewish clergy held onto when Christ reached out to the people. It was these same empty works and old laws that the clergy and the people held onto that caused most of the people to turn on Christ. ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 9:14 ".....purge your conscience from dead

works to serve the living God?" It was these same people holding onto these dead works and empty laws that caused Christ to be flogged and crucified; but this wasn't without warning. Christ warned the people that they weren't seeing the truth. John 5:43 "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not:" John 5:44 "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?" John 5:45 "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust." John 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." John 5:47 "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" The people of Christ's time didn't follow the spirit of the Law of Moses any more. ✝ Christianity: Romans 7:14 "For we know that the law is spiritual:" The light had gone out of their teachings years before and what they had left was the lifeless laws and rituals which blinded the people to the truth of Christ's light.

It was these old laws and rituals that Paul was talking about when he condemned deeds and works of the law and works of rituals, because it was these same works that caused the people to turn away from Christ and deny his mission. Paul wasn't saying that we could ignore the laws of the bible: ✝ Christianity: Romans 2:23 ".....breaking the law dishonourest thou God," nor was Paul saying we didn't need to do good works: Titus 3:14 "......maintain good works..... that they be not unfruitful." It is through good works and observation of the law that we demonstrate to God our love and faithfulness towards Him. Romans 2:13 "For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified." We are to live our lives by the law, be doers of the law. This is something that Paul also expounded on in numerous letters if we read on throughout his writings and letters:

✝ CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 5:11 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Romans 2:12 "For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall

be judged by the law;" Romans 2:13 "For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified." Hebrews 10:24 "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:" Titus 1:16 "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." Titus 2:7 "In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,"

We are to perform good works in our lives, Paul couldn't be any clearer on that. He repeatedly admonishes us to maintain good works: Christianity: Titus 3:8 "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men." Titus 3:14 "And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful." Doing good works is part of Paul's teachings and to deny this is to deny Paul himself. If we do not conform to doing good works, not the works of rites and rituals, but the actions of a good heart, then we are not heaven bound through faith regardless of our actions, we are held accountable for our actions: 2 Corinthians 11:15 ".....whose end shall be according to their works." And those people who do not perform good works are people that are more than likely caught up in this world: 2 Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." Galatians 5:19 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness," Galatians 5:20 "Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies," Galatians 5:21 "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Being caught up in the world as some people are is the same, according to James, as being against God:

CHRISTIANITY: James 4:4 ".....know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." We can't be a friend of the world and a friend of God at the same time; just like we can't completely ignore the law of God and be God fearing at the same time: Judaism: Deuteronomy 17:19 "And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:" Paul didn't rule out the Law of God in his writings, he condemned the practice of following out dated rituals and rules at the expense of turning away from God's new message for the day. Christianity: Romans 2:21 "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?" Romans 2:22 "Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?" Romans 2:23 "Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?" Romans 2:24 "For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written." Romans 2:25 "For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision." Romans 2:26 "Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?" Romans 2:27 "And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfill the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?" Romans 2:28 "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:" Romans 2:29 "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." Paul clearly indicates that we are not to be law breakers Romans 2:25 "..... if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision." But we should righteously adhere to the commandments of God through Moses and Christ: Romans 13:9 "For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Paul does

not deny the law of God he reaffirms the law. Hebrews 8:10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:" Hebrews 10:16 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;"

Do good works and good deeds, live by the law.

112. Do good works and good deeds, live by the law: This is not just an idle statement briefly hinted at in the religions of God, this is a command from God to mankind found throughout the writings of God: ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 5:1 "And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them." Deuteronomy 8:3 "And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live." Ecclesiastes 12:13 "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:14 "For God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Hosea 6:5 "Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of My mouth: and Thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth." Hosea 6:6 "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."

✝ CHRISTIANITY: Luke 4:4 "And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Romans 3:31 "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." Romans 10:5 "For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them." Romans 13:9 "For this, Thou shalt not

commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Romans 13:10 "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Strive to attain nearness to reality through the acquisition of strength of character, through morality, through good works"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 99)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is incumbent upon thee to summon the people, under all conditions, to whatever will cause them to show forth spiritual characteristics and goodly deeds, so that all may become aware of that which is the cause of human upliftment, and may, with the utmost endeavor, direct themselves towards the most sublime Station and the Pinnacle of Glory." (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 27) "Occupy thyself, during these fleeting days of thy life, with such deeds as will diffuse the fragrance of Divine good pleasure, and will be adorned with the ornament of His acceptance." (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 76)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O people of God! Do not busy yourselves in your own concerns; let your thoughts be fixed upon that which will rehabilitate the fortunes of mankind and sanctify the hearts and souls of men. This can best be achieved through pure and holy deeds, through a virtuous life and a goodly behavior. Valiant acts will ensure the triumph of this Cause, and a saintly character will reinforce its power. Cleave unto righteousness, O people of Baha! This, verily, is the commandment which this wronged One hath given unto you, and the first choice of His unrestrained Will for every one of you."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 93)

We should not glory in our own selves' glory in your service to God.

113. Glory not. We should not glory in our own selves' glory in your service to God: Pride, we are told in the writings of God, leads to our own downfall. We should, instead, glory in that we know and serve God: Judaism: Jeremiah 9:23 "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:" Jeremiah 9:24 "But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the LORD which exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 1:30 "But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:" 1:31 "That, according as it is written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 10:31 "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 2 Corinthians 10:17 "But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

BAHA'I FAITH: "What more glorious fate is there than this, to die for the glory of God?"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 63)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know thou and be well assured that from the first day whereon the voice of the Most Sublime Pen was raised betwixt earth and heaven We offered up Our souls, and Our bodies, and Our sons, and Our possessions in the path of God, the Exalted, the Great, and We glory therein amongst all created things."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 84)

God is not a man.

114. God is not a man: Some believers confuse God with mortality, thinking that He could or would take on the form of a human body, but the writings of God are clear on this point, God is not a man He is of the spirit in nature: ✡ Judaism: Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" Job 33:12 "God is greater than man." Hosea 11:9 "I am God, and not man." Isaiah 31:3 "The Egyptians are men, and not God."

✝ CHRISTIANITY: John 1:18 "No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared Him." John 4:23 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him." John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." 1 John 4:12 "No man hath seen God at any time." God is not in the form of a man that we can see and, according to Christ, never has been; for none have ever seen God on this earth. ✡ Judaism: Enoch "No flesh could behold Him (God)." 18:10 "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven," not on earth. (Matthew and Apocrypha)

✝ CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 4:4 "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;" 4:5 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." There is no place where He is cannot be found. John 4:24 "God is a Spirit." and there is no place where He is physically seen. Acts 17:27 "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though He be not far from every one of us:"

✡ JUDAISM: Jeremiah 23:23 "Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?" Jeremiah 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret

places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD." This ability to be everywhere at once is far above the ability of the mere human frailty of a man and it seems inconceivable that the greatness of God would ever even consider becoming such imperfection by the very nature of His great, exulted, omnipotent self.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God is pure perfection, and creatures are but imperfections. For God to descend into the conditions of existence would be the greatest of imperfections; on the contrary, His manifestation, His appearance, His rising are like the reflection of the sun in a clear, pure, polished mirror. All the creatures are evident signs of God, like the earthly beings upon all of which the rays of the sun shine. But upon the plains, the mountains, the trees and fruits, only a portion of the light shines, through which they become visible, and are reared, and attain to the object of their existence, while the Perfect Man is in the condition of a clear mirror in which the Sun of Reality becomes visible and manifest with all its qualities and perfections. So the Reality of Christ was a clear and polished mirror of the greatest purity and fineness. The Sun of Reality, the Essence of Divinity, reflected itself in this mirror and manifested its light and heat in it; but from the exaltation of its holiness, and the heaven of its sanctity, the Sun did not descend to dwell and abide in the mirror. No, it continues to subsist in its exaltation and sublimity, while appearing and becoming manifest in the mirror in beauty and perfection."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 113)

Have nothing but good thoughts.

115. Have nothing but good thoughts: We need to purify all our thoughts the different religions, that God has sent to mankind, tell us. It is not good enough that we just abstain from bad behavior, we need to purify our thoughts so they do not lead to bad behavior and corruption of our developing spirits: Christianity: Philippians 4:8

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Titus 1:15 "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts (your conscience), ye double minded." 2 Peter 2:12 "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;" 2:13 "And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;" 2:14 "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices....." 2:15 "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray."

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 5:21 "Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's." Wisdom 1. "Love righteousness, ye that be judges of the earth: think of the Lord with a good (heart,) and in simplicity of heart seek him." Proverbs 15:26 "The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words." Proverbs 16:3 "Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The light of the sun becomes apparent in each object according to the capacity of that object. The difference is simply one of degree and receptivity. The stone would be a recipient only to a limited extent; another created thing might be as a mirror wherein the sun is fully reflected; but the same light shines upon both."**

“The most important thing is to polish the mirrors of hearts in order that they may become illumined and receptive of the divine light. One heart may possess the capacity of the polished mirror; another be covered and obscured by the dust and dross of this world. Although the same Sun is shining upon both, in the mirror which is polished, pure and sanctified you may behold the Sun in all its fullness, glory and power revealing its majesty and effulgence, but in the mirror which is rusted and obscured there is no capacity for reflection although so far as the Sun itself is concerned it is shining thereon and is neither lessened nor deprived. Therefore our duty lies in seeking to polish the mirrors of our hearts (our souls) in order that we shall become reflectors of that light and recipients of the divine bounties which may be fully revealed through them.”

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 217)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Ye are the angels, if your feet be firm, your spirits rejoiced, your secret thoughts pure, your eyes consoled, your ears opened, your breasts dilated with joy, and your souls gladdened, and if you arise to assist the Covenant, to resist dissension and to be attracted to the Effulgence!”**

(Bahá’í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 360)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: 44. “O COMPANION OF MY THRONE! Hear no evil, and see no evil, abase not thyself, neither sigh and weep. Speak no evil, that thou mayest not hear it spoken unto thee, and magnify not the faults of others that thine own faults may not appear great; and wish not the abasement of anyone, that thine own abasement be not exposed. Live then the days of thy life, that are less than a fleeting moment, with thy mind stainless, thy heart unsullied, thy thoughts pure, and thy nature sanctified, so that, free and content, thou mayest put away this mortal frame, and repair unto the mystic paradise and abide in the eternal kingdom for evermore.”**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

Graft is in no way permissible before the throne of God.

116. Graft is in no way permissible before the throne of God. Bribery is considered to be a way leading to corruption; one must neither give or receive gifts with the intent of eliciting favors: ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 16:19 "Thou shalt not wrest judgment thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous." Psalms 26:9 "Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men:" Psalms 26:10 "In whose hand's is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes." Isaiah 33:15 "He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;" Isaiah 33:16 "He shall dwell on high:" ✝ Christianity: Sirach 40:12 "All bribery and injustice shall be blotted out: but true dealing shall endure for ever." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) Luke 14:12 "Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence (compensation) be made thee." Luke 14:13 "But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:" 14:14 "And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." Acts 8:20 "But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money." 8:21 "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God." 1 Peter 3:10 "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile" 3:11 "Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it." 2 Peter 2:18 "For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure (attract, entice) through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error." 2:19 "While they

promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage." "Resist... a bribe." (St Augustine, Book 6)

BAHA'I FAITH: "If bribery and corruption, known today by the pleasant names of gifts and favors, were forever excluded, would this threaten the foundations of justice?"

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 15)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Let them perform their services with complete sanctity and detachment, and on no account defile themselves by receiving bribes, harbouring unseemly motives, or engaging in noxious practices."

(Bahá'í Faith, Compilations, The Compilation of Compilations vol II, p. 344)

Speak not with guile, deceit or craftiness.

117. Speak not with guile, deceit or craftiness to your fellow man, and do not live by or perform these wiles and actions in this life: Guile, deceit and craftiness are just a few in a long list of actions the religions of God warn us about. These actions can cause harm and break down relations man has with one another; and one of the things God's religions are supposed to be about is man's interactions with one another in a pleasing, peaceful and productive manner. Judaism: Exodus 21:14 "If a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; (craftiness) thou shalt take him from mine altar, that he may die." Psalms 32:1 "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." 32:2 "Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile." Psalms 34:13 "Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." 34:14 "Depart from evil, and do good;

seek peace, and pursue it." 34:15 "The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry." Job 15:5 "For thy mouth uttereth thine iniquity, and thou choosest the tongue of the crafty." Job 27:4 "My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit."

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 3:10 "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:" (deceit) 3:11 "Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it." Mark 7:21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 7:22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit (guile), lasciviousness (lewd behaviour), an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 7:23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." 2 Corinthians 4:1 "We faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The beloved of the Lord are wrapped in utter sincerity and devotion, unmindful of this rancour (deep hatred) and malice. Smooth and insidious are these snakes, these whisperers of evil, artful in their craft and guile. Be ye on your guard and ever wakeful! Quick-witted and keen of intellect are the faithful, and firm and steadfast are the assured. Act ye with all circumspection!"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 314)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O people! Fear ye God, and allow not your tongues to utter, in their deceitfulness, that which displeaseth Him."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 27)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Pluck asunder the chains of vain imaginings, in the name of the Lord of all men, and be not of the deceitful. Should ye turn**

unto God, and embrace His Cause, spread not disorder within it, and measure not the Book of God with your selfish desires. This, verily, is the counsel of God aforetime and hereafter....”

(Baha'u'llah, The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. 74)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Man's merit lieth in service and virtue and not in the pageantry of wealth and riches. Take heed that your words be purged from idle fancies and worldly desires and your deeds be cleansed from craftiness and suspicion.”**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 138)

The physical body of man is considered dead and in the grave when the spirit and truth of God’s message isn’t animating the soul of man.

118. The physical body of man is considered dead and in the grave when the spirit and truth of God’s message isn’t animating the soul of man. In the Bahá’í Writings the grave or being dead is often referred to as being trapped in the physical body without the enlightenment of God’s holy manifestation lighting our way out of the darkness of ignorance of this material world. Though the physical body of man may be walking around and breathing God considers man to be dead and in the grave of the material body because the spirit of life is not found in the man who is not enlightened by the word of God’s holy manifestation.

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 8:22 “But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.”**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “His Holiness Jesus Christ declared, ‘Let the dead bury their dead.’ He also said, ‘That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.’ It is evident therefore according to His Holiness that the human spirit which is not fortified**

by the presence of the Holy Spirit is dead and in need of resurrection by that divine power;"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 241)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "For he who had believed in God and in the Manifestation of His beauty was raised from the grave of heedlessness, gathered together in the sacred ground of the heart, quickened to the life of faith and certitude, and admitted into the paradise of the divine presence."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries)

This spiritual usage of terms that denote being symbolically in the grave or being symbolically dead when the soul of man is not fortified by the true massage found within God's holy word is also found in the writings of The Holy Bible.  **Judaism: Psalms 30:3 "O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive," David tells us that God brought his soul up from the grave of the physical body and raised him up to the living form of the spiritual self or the spiritual body. Paul, in Corinthians, confirms that there is a spiritual body as well as a physical body.**  **Christianity: 1 Corinthians 15:44 "There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:40 "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another." So, when the light of the All Glorious is not to be found in the terrestrial body, the spiritual or the celestial body is considered dead by The Creator of all things, because it has no share in the life giving waters that flows from the teachings of God's holy words.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It hath raised the dead from the graves of the body through the breath of life; seated the ignorant in the high station of knowledge and established the unjust upon the summit of justice."**

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 31:17 "Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave." The wicked are already in the grave as far as God is concerned. They are spiritually dead to God. Psalms 33:19 "Deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive." David is fairly clear here; the soul of man has to be delivered from the death of self for the man who is not aided by God's Holy Word is trapped in the grave of self and unawareness. Psalms 69:32 "The humble shall see this, and be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God." Seeking God, David tells us, is the way to spiritual life for our soul. Proverbs 21:16 "The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead." You have to seek with understanding. If one just tries to mouth the words of God's holy ones without trying to understand their inner significance the spirit of life is not found in them.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "By My life, ye are in the graves, were ye of those who perceive! Verily, he who doth not move by the Breath of God, in His Day, is indeed dead before God, the King of Names and Attributes. Arise from the graves of your lusts and advance to the Kingdom of your Lord,"**

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 97)

We must divorce ourselves from the lusts of the world and open ourselves to the teachings of God if we want to spiritually live.  **Judaism: Isaiah 55:3 "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live;" Isaiah 65:2 "I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;" Isaiah 65:3 "A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick;" Isaiah 65:4 "Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels;" We must cleanse ourselves from the stains of this physical world and wash our thoughts, which are the repositories of who and what we are, from the impurities of corrupt inclinations that lead us down to the grave.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "At the touch of Jesus' breath the unmindful dead that lay in the graves of their ignorance lifted up their heads to receive eternal life."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 80)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 5:25 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." To live we must listen to God's holy manifestations for they teach us the meaning of real life, which is spiritual life in the shadow of God's Holy Kingdom. John 11:23 "Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again." John 11:24 "Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." John 11:25 "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:" The Holy Manifestations of God are the ways to resurrection, because they teach the way to spiritual life, which leads to eternal life.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and in the Holy Books of other religions, the word 'dead' is often used to refer to those devoid of faith and spiritual life."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 3, p. 217)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 23:27 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." Matthew 23:28 "Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." Luke 15:32 "For this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found." Ephesians 2:4 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us," 2:5 "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved;" 2:6 "And hath raised us up together,**

and made us sit together in heavenly places." 1 Peter 4:6 "For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit." 1 Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." Here, Paul plainly states it. Those people that live for the pleasures of this life are considered dead by God even though they are living and breathing. Romans 6:13 "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Luke 15:24 "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is my hope that out of the bestowals of the Lord of Hosts ye will become the spiritual essence and the very radiance of humankind, binding the hearts of all with bonds of love; that through the power of the Word of God ye will bring to life the dead now buried in the graves of their sensual desires; that ye will, with the rays of the Sun of Truth, restore the sight of those whose inner eye is blind; that ye will bring spiritual healing to the spiritually sick."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 36)

Human Greed.

119. Human Greed: Avarice is a subject that really needs to be addressed in the books of God. Greed is one of the seven cardinal sins, or better known as the seven deadly sins found in the bible; and is responsible for untold human misery and suffering at the hands of those men and women, who hold greed as their way of life. To many of these people avarice is their god, forming the basis of their religion, for, Christianity: 1 Corinthians: 10:19 "What say I then? that the idol is any thing." This allows them to take from others, what they feel it is their God given right to have, regardless of whom their nature of inordinate desire for more may harm or what damage they may do to human society. How many wars has this uncontrolled urge in some

individuals spawned in the world, how much hardship and death has it left in its wake. And, in reality, for what: Bahá'í Faith: "The commanders of army's glory in having killed ten thousand men, not for food, nay, rather, for military control, territorial greed, fame and possession of the dust of the earth. They kill for national aggrandizement, notwithstanding this terrestrial globe is but a dark world of grossest matter. It is a world of sorrow and grief, a world of disappointment and unhappiness, a world of death. For after all, the earth is but the everlasting graveyard, the vast, universal cemetery of all mankind. Yet men fight to possess this graveyard, waging war and battle, killing each other. What ignorance!" "The earth spacious enough for all, there is room for plenty if we just learn to work together in peace! But, instead, many of these world leaders in power still choose antagonism as their main source of communication." "Therefore, it is evident that warfare, cruelty and bloodshed in the kingdom of man are caused by human greed, hatred and selfishness."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, pp. 120 and 396)

So important is the gravity of this one cardinal sin that, research reveals, that this subject is talked about, and warned against, in all of God's world religions on this earth.

BAHA'I FAITH: "There are two sides to man. One is divine, the other worldly; one is luminous, the other dark; one is angelic, the other diabolic. In all sensuous conditions man is equal to the animals, for all animal characteristics exist in him. Likewise, divine and satanic qualities are contained in man; knowledge and ignorance; guidance and error; truth and falsehood; generosity and avarice; (greed) valor and timidity; inclination towards God and tendency towards Satan. Chastity and purity, corruption and vileness, economy and avidity, good and evil -- all are contained in man." (Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 406) "If the soul identifies itself with the material world it remains dark, for in the natural world there is corruption, aggression, struggles for existence, greed, darkness, transgression and vice. If the soul remains in this station and moves along these paths it will be the recipient of this darkness; but if it becomes the

recipient of the graces of the world of mind, its darkness will be transformed into light, its tyranny into justice, its ignorance into wisdom, its aggression into loving kindness; until it reach the apex. Then there will not remain any struggle for existence. Man will become free from egotism; he will be released from the material world; he will become the personification of justice and virtue, for a sanctified soul illumines humanity and is an honor to mankind." (Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 120)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 3:2 "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;" 3:3 "Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre (shameful gain); but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;" 1 Timothy 3:8 "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 3:9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience." Ephesians 4:17 "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind," 4:18 "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:" 4:19 "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." Luke 12:34 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." So, if your treasure is spiritual and in heaven, there your heart and thoughts will be also, otherwise your heart is attached to this world, and you are nothing more than an animal that talks and collects perishable wealth from this world, being controlled by the want and desire for more earthly stuff from this graveyard of vanity and dirt discontented, disgruntled, malcontent. And yes, there are always exceptions to the rule, as there are humans of all kinds of merit.**

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 15:27 "He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live." Proverbs 18:11 "The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit." Proverbs 18:12 "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty." Psalms 49:5 "Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about?" Psalms 49:6 "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude**

of their riches;" Psalms 49:7 "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:" Isaiah 56:11 "Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter." Job 31:24 "If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence;" Job 31:25 "If I rejoice because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;" Job 31:26 "If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness;" Job 31:27 "And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:" Job 31:28 "This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above." Sirach 31:12 "If thou sit at a bountiful table, be not greedy upon it." Tobias 5:18 "Be not greedy to add money to money:" (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Why, then, exhibit such greed in amassing the treasures of the earth, when your days are numbered and your chance is well-nigh lost? Will ye not, then, O heedless ones, shake off your slumber?" "Incline your ears to the counsels which this Servant giveth you for the sake of God. He, verily, asketh no recompense from you and is resigned to what God hath ordained for Him, and is entirely submissive to God's Will."**

"The days of your life are far spent, O people, and your end is fast approaching. Put away, therefore, the things ye have devised and to which ye cleave, and take firm hold on the precepts of God, that haply ye may attain that which He hath purposed for you, and be of them that pursue a right course. Delight not yourselves in the things of the world and its vain ornaments, neither set your hopes on them. Let your reliance be on the remembrance of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Great. He will, erelong, bring to naught all the things ye possess. Let Him be your fear, and forget not His covenant with you, and be not of them that are shut out as by a veil from Him."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 127)

Create in me a pure heart.

220. Create in me a pure heart. ✡ Judaism: Psalms 51:10 "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." ✝ Christianity: 1 Peter 1:22 "See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Create in me a pure heart, O my God, and renew a tranquil conscience within me, O my Hope! Through the spirit of power confirm Thou me in Thy Cause, O my Best-Beloved, and by the light of Thy glory reveal unto me Thy path, O Thou the Goal of my desire! Through the power of Thy transcendent might lift me up unto the heaven of Thy holiness, O Source of my being, and by the breezes of Thine eternity gladden me, O Thou Who art my God! Let Thine everlasting melodies breathe tranquility on me, O my Companion, and let the riches of Thine ancient countenance deliver me from all except Thee, O my Master, and let the tidings of the revelation of Thine incorruptible Essence bring me joy, O Thou Who art the most manifest of the manifest and the most hidden of the hidden!"

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 248)

"It is easy to read the Holy Scriptures, but it is only with a clean heart and a pure mind that one may understand their true meaning."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 56)

The path is hard.

221. The path is hard. The path that leads to God is hard and not easy to follow in this life. God tests us when we say we believe. God tries the heart to see if we truly believe and are not just talking; and to help us grow spiritually preparing us for the next life: ✡ Judaism: Exodus 20:20 "And Moses said unto the

people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you." Psalms 7:9 "The righteous God trieth the hearts." 1 Peter 1:7 "The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Do men think when they say 'We believe' they shall be let alone and not be put to proof?" (Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 25) Clearly we can see that God does in fact test those who claim to believe to see if they are truthful in word and deed and not just talking to appease the people around them. He does this throughout His various religions. What He also does is try to help mankind grow spiritually so man becomes more like God, in whose image he is created in; and this is a path not easily followed.**  **Judaism: 2:4 Ezra "And he answered me, saying, 'The most High hath made this world for many, but the world to come for few. There be many created, but few shall be saved. These things have I not shewed unto all men, but unto thee, and a few like thee. For thou art blessed above many other, and art called with the Highest; and so are but few.'" (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) 4 Ezra 7:5 "The entrance thereof is narrow, and is set in a dangerous place to fall, like as if there were a fire on the right hand, and on the left a deep water: And one only path between them both, even between the fire and the water, so small that there could but one man go there at once. If this city now were given unto a man for an inheritance, if he never shall pass the danger set before it, how shall he receive this inheritance?" (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Exodus 20:20 "And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that His fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not." Deuteronomy 8:2 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep His commandments, or no." Proverbs 3:12 "For whom the LORD loveth He correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." Psalms 7:9 "Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts." Ecclesiastes 1:18 "For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth**

sorrow.” Isaiah 48:10 “Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.”

 **CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 12:6 “For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.” Hebrews 12:7 “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?” Matthew 7:13 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at:” Matthew 7:14 “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” Because the path that leads to God is not easily followed and few see the truth. Matthew 22:14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.” Matthew 13:21 “tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word,” Luke 13:24 “Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.” Mark 4:17 “Affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake,” Acts 14:22 “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” 1 Corinthians 4:12 “We bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day.”**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Be the image and likeness of God. This is not easy. It necessitates the focalization of all heavenly virtues. It requires that we become recipients of all the perfections of God. Then we become His image and likeness.”**

(Bahá’í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 248)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “O Thou Whose tests are a healing medicine to such as are nigh unto Thee,”**

(Compilations, Baha'i Prayers, p. 189)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know ye that trials and tribulations have, from time immemorial, been the lot of the chosen Ones of God and His beloved, and such of His servants as are detached from all else but Him, they whom neither merchandise nor traffic beguile from the rememberance of the Almighty, they that speak not till He hath spoken, and act according to His commandment. Such is God's method carried into effect of old, and such will it remain in the future. Blessed are the steadfastly enduring, they that are patient under ills and hardships, who lament not over anything that befalleth them, and who tread the path of resignation...."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 129)

We are not to set our hearts on worldly wealth.

222. We are not to set our hearts on worldly wealth the writings of God tell us, we are to trust in God: Judaism: Psalms 49:6 "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;" Psalms 49:7 "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:" Psalms 62:10 "If riches increase, set not your heart upon them." Psalms 52:8 "Trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever." Christianity: Luke 12:21 "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God," is a poor man in spirit. Luke 12:34 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." 1 Timothy 6:8 "Having food and raiment let us be therewith content." 1 Timothy 6:9 "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." 1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil:" 1 Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" 1 Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;" 1 Timothy 6:19 "Laying up in store for themselves a

good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Man's merit lieth in service and virtue and not in the pageantry of wealth and riches. Take heed that your words be purged from idle fancies and worldly desires and your deeds be cleansed from craftiness and suspicion. Dissipate not the wealth of your precious lives in the pursuit of evil and corrupt affection, nor let your endeavours be spent in promoting your personal interest. Be generous in your days of plenty, and be patient in the hour of loss. Adversity is followed by success and rejoicings follow woe. Guard against idleness and sloth, and cling unto that which profiteth mankind, whether young or old, whether high or low."**

"THE source of all good is trust in God, submission unto His command, and contentment with His holy will and pleasure."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, pp. 138 and 153)

Healing, a miracle found in all God's religions.

223. Though miracles are not often talked about in the Bahá'í writings, unless it is to explain that you need to be present to witness it with your own eyes, healing, among the many miracles spoken of in the Holy Bible, performed by Christ, is one of the most profound in its effect upon the believers. Miracles were in fact performed by all the other prophets of God, but I find that the performing of the act of healing was the most frequently performed miracle in all the religions of God, and the one most readily observed by the people when one was searching throughout the writings of God: ✡ **Judaism: Deuteronomy 32:39 "See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with Me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of My hand." Numbers**

12:13 “And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.” 12:14 “And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again.” 12:15 And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. Jeremiah 33:6 “Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.”

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 4:23 “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.” Luke 9:6 “And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere.” Luke 9:11 “And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.” Luke 10:8 “And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: 10:9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.” John 9:5 “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” John 9:6 “When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,” John 9:7 “And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.”**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Bahá'u'lláh, having the power of life and death in His hands, asked His dying son whether he wished to live. He assured him that if this was his wish God would enable him to recover and grant him good health. But the Purest Branch begged Bahá'u'lláh to accept his life as a ransom for the opening of the gates of the prison to the face of the many believers who were longing to come and enter the presence of their Lord. Bahá'u'lláh accepted his sacrifice and he died on 23 June 1870, twenty-two hours after his fall.”**

“Soon after the martyrdom of the Purest Branch many restrictions in the barracks were relaxed and several believers who were longing to attain the presence of Bahá'u'lláh did so. And about four months after

this tragic event, Bahá'u'lláh and His companions left the prison barracks altogether. As we shall see later, Bahá'u'lláh resided in a house in 'Akká, and soon many pilgrims from Persia came and attained His presence." (Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 3, pp. 207 and 210)

The promise of heaven.

224. <u>The promise of heaven as a reward for doing good in this earthly life is promised in all the religions of God</u>: but a physical heaven is not necessarily what is intended by this promise: ✝ <u>Christianity</u>: 1 <u>Corinthians</u> 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;" Paul seems to be pretty clear on this, stating plainly, that flesh and blood, or the physical body, cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, or the physical body of man can't go to heaven, because heaven is not a physical place. <u>Romans</u> 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." 1 <u>Corinthians</u> 4:20 "For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power."

✡ <u>JUDAISM</u>: <u>Isaiah</u> 42:5 "Thus saith God the LORD, He that created the heavens, and stretched them out; He that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; He that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:" 17:25 "Seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;" (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Maccabees 2 and <u>Acts</u>) <u>Genesis</u> 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth:" After the death of our physical body we are a spirit, in God's image. <u>Genesis</u> 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." <u>Genesis</u> 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." <u>Genesis</u> 9:6 "for in the image of God made He man." Which, the bible tells us is a spiritual existence: ✝ <u>Christianity</u> <u>John</u> 4:23 "But

the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." For, John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit." So, what would be the use of a physical place to take up our new spiritual existence? God is of the spirit and so is the spirit created inside of us that is in the image of God. John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Here, Jesus separates the physical flesh of man from the spiritual nature found inside of man. John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Romans 8:8 "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." Because, it is the spirit inside of man that God holds dear. Romans 8:9 "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you." Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:5 "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." Romans 8:6 "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Hebrews 2:5 "For unto the angels hath He not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak." Paul hints here, at the existence of a world to come, a world where angels can be found not under subjection. This place, this world to come, is where heaven is to be found, because it is a place where angels can be found. Which, according to Jesus, in Matthew, heaven is a place where angels always behold the face of God: Matthew 18:10 "....angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." So, here we have a clear indication that our body, after death, is spiritual in God's image and heaven is not a physical place, but a spiritual place to take up our new residence.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the spiritual world, the divine bestowals are infinite, for in that realm there is neither separation nor disintegration which characterize the world of material existence. Spiritual existence is absolute immortality, completeness and unchangeable being. Therefore we must thank God that He has created for us both material blessings and spiritual bestowals."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 266)

Also, in keeping with this reasoning, in Luke and Thomas we find more precise clarifications that heaven is not a physical place to take up our final abode: Christianity: Luke 21:31 "..... when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 17:20 "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:" Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." The kingdom of God is not a physical place to be observed. You can't say it is here or it is there for the kingdom of God, or heaven, is found within us, or is part of us. Here we find in Luke that heaven or the kingdom of God is not a physical place right from Christ's very own words, and we also find this in Thomas: 2:51 "His (Jesus') disciples said to Him, 'When will the repose of the dead come about, and when will the new world come?' He said to them, 'What you look forward to has already come, but you do not recognize it.'" The new world, the coming with the Kingdom of God, here again we find the nonphysical nature of these prophesies exposed. So, in keeping this in mind, death to the spiritually enlightened soul is just a door way leading into the next spiritual world: Judaism: Ecclesiastes 7:1 "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth." Death is not something we should be afraid of in this world. For those individuals who are right with God death is, in fact, a messenger of joy for it leads those people longing for the next life to the kingdom of the beloved, in which case: Psalms 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." For that means these spiritual beings are coming home to the Father. So, spiritual reality dictates: Ecclesiastics 7:8 "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof." In fact, Proverbs 20:27 "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD."

BAHA'I FAITH: "To consider that after the death of the body the spirit perishes, is like imagining that a bird in a cage will be destroyed

if the cage is broken, though the bird has nothing to fear from the destruction of the cage. Our body is like the cage, and the spirit is like the bird. We see that without the cage this bird flies in the world of sleep; therefore if the cage becomes broken, the bird will continue and exist: its feelings will be even more powerful, its perceptions greater, and its happiness increased. In truth, from hell it reaches a paradise of delights, because for the thankful birds there is no paradise greater than freedom from the cage. That is why with utmost joy and happiness the martyrs hasten to the plain of sacrifice."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 326)

On a further note: ✝ Christianity: 1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," 1:4 "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, (at the dissolution of your physical body)" 1:6 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice," 2 Peter 1:13 "Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in rememberance;" 1:14 "Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath." 2 Corinthians 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Mark 10:30 "He shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." ✡ Judaism: Job 32:8 "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty." "33:4 "The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life." ✝ Christianity: 1 Peter 4:6 "For, for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Man -- the true man -- is soul, not body; though physically man belongs to the animal kingdom, yet his soul lifts him above the rest of creation. Behold how the light of the sun illuminates the world of matter: even so doth the Divine Light shed its rays in the

kingdom of the soul. The soul it is which makes the human creature a celestial entity!"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 84)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 15:42 "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:" 15:43 "It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:" 15:44 "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:40 "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another." 1 Corinthians 15:49 "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." Galatians 6:8 "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "They say: 'Where is Paradise, and where is Hell?' Say: 'The one is reunion with Me; the other thine own self,'" (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 132) "Thy Paradise is My love; thy heavenly home, reunion with Me." (Bahá'í Faith, The Arabic Hidden Words)**

Though we cannot say, for certain, just what heaven is, or what it is like, heaven must partly be a state we find ourselves in, like a frame of mind we find ourselves in, after we discard this physical body and are confronted with the consequence of all our actions in this life.  **Judaism: Enoch "The spirits of heaven, in heaven shall be their dwelling," "It shall be said to the holy in heaven that they should seek out the secrets of righteousness, the heritage of faith: for the spiritual ones of the heaven, in heaven is their dwelling." (The Book of Enoch, Apocrypha) Ezra "O receive the gift that is given you, and be glad, giving thanks unto Him that hath led you to the heavenly kingdom." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) One just needs to keep in mind that it is to the spiritual that God calls us to, and not to the physical.**  **Christianity: Luke 10:8 "And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they**

receive you, eat such things as are set before you:" 10:9 "And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." Once again, The Kingdom of God, or Heaven, is come nigh unto us. Luke 21:31 "The kingdom of God is nigh at hand." "But you do not recognize it." (because) "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:" (for) "the kingdom of God is within you." I think this pretty well sums up the nonphysical nature of the spiritual world of heaven and the nonphysical nature of the soul of man and the fact that the spiritual nature of man will at the dissolution of the physical body go to a nonphysical heaven to reside in glory there forever.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Shield them, I entreat Thee, O my Lord, from the assaults of their evil passions and desires, and aid them to obtain the things that shall profit them in this present world and in the next." (the world to come, heaven)**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 300)

As for the belief some people, of today, hold in their minds about heaven being some literal place of existence on the other side of life, we will go to when our bodies rise, with real pearly gates to gaze upon and streets lined with real physical gold gleaming in the sun light. I mean, what's the point? Even in this world God's messengers show very little interest in the treasures and ornaments of this world.  **Christianity: Luke 18:22 "Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me." Luke 12:34 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Jesus had so little interest in the things of this world that he asked nothing for himself that would ease the burden of hardships of his life, or the hardships of the lives of his disciples. And we know they lived in dire striates because we are told this from Christ's very own words: Matthew 8:20 "And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Jesus didn't hold value in the things of this life nor did those who followed him. God has no interest**

in the treasures of this life; it is only the human heart that He has real interest in: Bahá'í Faith: "God does not behold differences of hue and complexion; He looks at the hearts." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith p. 267)

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 10:27 "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind:" So what would be the use of real physical treasures in heaven? That is not saying that some will not see these things when our spiritual eyes start to open, when we are close to death, and we are being welcomed into the next life. My grandmother saw these things, and that is what she was expecting to see. It's just that these things hold no real value in the next life and it is the spiritual heart that will take us further into the next world, then the transitory things we are leaving behind in this life. The treasures we lay up for that spiritual existence are the deeds preformed right here in this life, Bahá'í Faith: "And thou shalt have treasure in heaven," "Place not thy reliance on thy treasures. Put thy whole confidence in the grace of God, thy Lord. Let Him be thy trust in whatever thou doest, and be of them that have submitted themselves to His Will. Let Him be thy helper and enrich thyself with His treasures; for with Him are the treasuries of the heavens and of the earth. He bestoweth them upon whom He will, and from whom He will He withholdeth them. There is none other God but Him, the All-Possessing, the All-Praised. All are but paupers at the door of His mercy; all are helpless before the revelation of His sovereignty, and beseech His favours." (The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. 49) Real treasures, are not physical in nature, and are found with God in His spiritual heaven and, in reality, most people see heaven as a spiritual place we go to after we leave this mortal sphere of existence behind us with the casting aside of this mortal body: Bahá'í Faith: "Give them, moreover, to drink of the living waters of Thy knowledge, and ordain for them the good of this world and of the world to come."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 109)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "According to Them, Heaven is the state of perfection, and Hell that of imperfection; Heaven is harmony with God's will and with our fellows, and Hell is the want of such harmony; Heaven is the condition of spiritual life, and Hell that of spiritual death. A man may be either in Heaven or in Hell while still in the body. The joys of Heaven are spiritual joys; and the pains of Hell consist in the deprivation of these joys."**

(Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 190)

Hell like heaven is mentioned in all the religions of God and hell like heaven is hinted at as not being a physical place but a spiritual place.

225. Hell like heaven is mentioned in all the religions of God and hell like heaven is hinted at as not being a physical place but a spiritual place more like a state of mind or a spiritual state in which we find ourselves upon our death. In the Bahá'í Faith hell is looked at more as a state of mind or state of being and not so much as a physical place we go to after the death of our physical body. Bahá'u'lláh puts it like this:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Where is Paradise, and where is Hell?' Say: 'The one is reunion with Me; the other thine own self,"**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 132)

After death we are a spirit created in God's image. Judaism: Genesis 9:6 "for in the image of God made he man:" and God is a spirit. Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" We are a spirit when we die. John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." So, what would be the use of a physical place to take up our new spiritual existence, and what would be the

use of a physical fire to harm a spirit? As Bahá'ís we recognize that terms like hell and heaven are symbolic for man's state of being in which we can experience small aspects of right here in this earthly life.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Heaven is the state of perfection, and Hell that of imperfection; Heaven is harmony with God's will and with our fellows, and Hell is the want of such harmony; Heaven is the condition of spiritual life, and Hell that of spiritual death. A man may be either in Heaven or in Hell while still in the body. The joys of Heaven are spiritual joys; and the pains of Hell consist in the deprivation of these joys."**

(Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 190)

Paul tells us: Christianity: 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;" If flesh and blood, or the physical body, cannot inherit the Kingdom of God (heaven) why do we think that the physical body can go to a physical hell? If the physical body of man cannot go to heaven then it only stands to reason that the physical body of man cannot go to hell either.

In the Bahá'í Faith we accept that God is, in truth, a good loving God, not some maniacal being that purposely goes out of His way to make us suffer and who has arranged a terrible suffering everlasting ending for us that even some of the worst humans on earth would consider as completely unjust. If we, as humans would consider this ending as unjust, how can we attribute this kind of behavior to God who is Justice and Love Himself, Who knows everything past, present and future. Judaism: Genesis 18:25 "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" If God already knows the outcome of the lives of men, why would a God who is all love Himself create even one soul who is going to suffer such an outcome (See Reprieved from hell. out of the book the oneness of religions by Edward Jewell for more information)

As for what the word hell really means, it seems to take on many different meanings as one can see from the numerous statements found here about hell.  Judaism: 2 Samuel 22:6 "The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;" Job 10:21 "Before I go whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death;" Job 10:22 "A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness." Here death is described as darkness and hell is inferred as a chaotic place of darkness. Psalms 9:16 "The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands." Psalms 9:17 "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Psalms 9:18 "For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever." Here it states that the wicked and all the nations that forget God shall be turned into hell, not sent to hell. But, people need to ask themselves how can whole nations be in hell on this physical earth. It can be deduced from this statement that these words are symbolic of the individual's soul's state of being, hence the statement "turned into hell." As for the ignorance of the nations on the earth at that time and the wicked whole nations on the earth being sent down to a physical hell to burn for eternity it doesn't make any sense physically.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be ye a rich treasure to every indigent one; consider love and union as a delectable paradise, and count annoyance and hostility as the torment of hell-fire."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 356)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 16:8 "I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." Psalms 16:9 "Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope." Psalms 16:10 "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Here, though David is still living on the earth, he states that his soul is in hell, which he states God will remove this sorrow from him. Also, we find corruption being associated with hell.**

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 18:4 "The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid." Psalms 18:5 "The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me." David uses the terms hell and death almost interchangeably in Psalms 18:4 thru 5. This almost leads a person to believe that David considers death and hell to be the same thing. Psalms 86:12 "I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore." Psalms 86:13 "For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell." David again infers that spiritual hell is right here with him on this earth, not just some dark place we go to after death but a spiritual place or spiritual state of mind we find ourselves in, like being filled with mental torment and anguish.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "paradise and hell of existence are found in all the worlds of God, whether in this world or in the spiritual heavenly worlds."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 323)

If heaven and hell can be found right here on this earth like a peaceful state of mind or torment of the soul, this argues the point that heaven and hell are spiritual, non-literal, mental places, not physical places, because these physical places do not exist on this earth for the eye to perceive that we can physically go to and visit.  **Christianity: Luke 17:20 "The kingdom of God (heaven) cometh not with observation;" 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you (as we will also find hell is as well)." Following this reasoning does it make any sense to believe that we will go to a physical place when we pass on out of this life into the next world?**  **Judaism: Psalms 116:3 "The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow." Here David puts a name on it and refers to sorrow and pain as being part of hell. Pain is something that can be physical in nature, but sorrow is a state of the mind and soul, not a state of the physical body. Psalms 139:8 "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." Here David states God**

is to be found were ever David finds himself heaven or hell. This again argues the point that hell like heaven is not a physical place. Jeremiah 23:23 "Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?" 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Sharp as a sword and finer than a hair, stretches across Hell to Heaven."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Memorials of the Faithful, p. 196)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 5:5 "Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell." Proverbs 7:27 "Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death." Here again, death and hell are used interchangeably, which again, argues of the symbolic nature of hell as being a state of the soul because death can also be considered spiritual in nature with death being the lack of spiritual life in the soul of man (see Death, Life and Resurrection for more information).**  **Christianity: Luke 15:24 "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."**  **Judaism: Isaiah 57:9 "And thou wentest to the king with ointment, and didst increase thy perfumes, and didst send thy messengers far off, and didst debase thyself even unto hell." We can see from this statement from Isaiah that hell is a place we can put ourselves, again right here on this physical earth and not necessarily a place God has to put us.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Shun any man in whom you perceive enmity for this Servant, though he may appear in the garb of piety." "O Mahdi! Be informed by these utterances and shun the manifestations of the people of hell, the rising place of Nimrods, the rising place of Pharisees, the fountain of Tagut, and the soothsayers."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 431)

 **JUDAISM: Amos 9:2 "Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring**

them down:" Again, we perceive from this statement that hell and heaven are places we can put ourselves here by our actions. Jonah 2:1 "Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly," Jonah 2:2 "And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice." Hell as we can again see can be found right here on this earth while we are yet alive, though we must understand that hell can only intensify when we discard our physical body and see the true results of all of our actions displayed before us.

 **JUDAISM: Habakkuk 2:5 "Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:" Hell here is referred to as being like death and being something that can never be satisfied.**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew hints that the gates of hell may be found right here on this earth with us, where the church can prevail against them or block them. Acts 2:26 "Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:" Acts 2:27 "Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Acts 2:28 "Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance." Here again we find that now Paul needs God to deliver his soul from the spiritual form of hell found right here on this earth and again we see hell being associated with corruption. Acts 2:31 "He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption." Now we find that Jesus Christ himself was in hell when he died on the cross and we need to ask ourselves just what Christ had done to deserve one day in hell let alone three days in hell. Why would God allow His son to suffer one minute in a fiery hell for doing just what God wanted him to do? It makes no sense. Also, for a third time we find hell being associated with corruption.**

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Peter 2:4 "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;" This is a new slant on hell. Hell here is not referred to as a lake of fire, but chains in darkness. Jude 1:6 "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Revelations 1:18 "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelations 6:8 "And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth." Revelations 20:13 "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works." Revelations 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." Here hell is repeatedly referred to as death which can, as I stated earlier, symbolically mean spiritual death; so spiritual death can be a form of hell that is a form of mental anguish. How else could death and hell be cast into the lake of fire? This statement is not meant to be taken literally.**  **Judaism: Ezekiel 18:27 "When the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive." If we have spiritual death do to our actions in this life then conversely we must also have spiritual life, which is also related to our actions in this life.**  **Christianity: Luke 15:32 "for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found." James 3:6 "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." The tongue is set on fire of hell. We can create hell right here on this earth with the words that we speak. Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." This is an example of how words can kill the soul and land the listeners spirit into the depths of a non-literal hell. The people at the time of Jesus listened to**

the words of the Pharisees instead of the words of Jesus thereby causing the death of Jesus Christ and thereby reserving for themselves a place in this ethereal hell because of their actions in this life. Had they listened to the words of Jesus they would have found spiritual life and made a place for themselves in God's kingdom, but words of the deceiver can kill the soul.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Light must be spread afar, so that, in the school of humanity, all may acquire the heavenly characteristics of the spirit, and see for themselves beyond any doubt that there is no fiercer hell, no more fiery abyss, than to possess a character that is evil and unsound; no more darksome pit nor loathsome torment than to show forth qualities which deserve to be condemned."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 136)

Finally, Paul describes hell and punishment as being denied the presence of the Lord and being shut out from His glory and power. Christianity: 2 Thessalonians 1:9 "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;" What greater hell can there be then to want to be in the presents of God and to be shut out from His presents because of the works of our hands in this life? What fiercer torment can there be then to desire, to long for the love of the Creator and to be denied that love everlastingly because we wouldn't take the time out of our lives to get to know Him and trust Him? This is what the Bahá'ís consider hell to be remoteness from God and His chosen ones everlasting. We don't get fire we don't get brimstone we get to exist in solitude and be alone.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Heaven is harmony with God's will and with our fellows, and Hell is the want of such harmony;"

(Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 190)

BAHA'I FAITH: "What fire is fiercer on the Day of Reckoning than that of remoteness from the divine Beauty and the celestial Glory?"

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 44)

Lastly for anyone who still finds it hard to believe in a non-literal hell. ✝ Christianity: Revelations 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Here we have the people whose names are not written in the book of life being cast into hell. After this we have the new heaven and the new earth for the former are passed away and are no more. And with the coming of the new heaven and new earth we see the holy city New Jerusalem coming down from God and all is good. Revelations 21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away." Revelations 21:2 "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." So again I say all is apparently good. The bad people are gone. We have a new earth to call our home. So why are there still bad people on the earth?

You would think that all the bad people are gone and only the good people are left. All the people whose names were not mentioned in the book of life were cast into hell. Only the good people are left, those people whose names are written in the book of life. So why does the last chapter of the book of Revelations tell us the bad people are not gone? ✝ Christianity: Revelations 22:11 "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelations 22:14 "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelations 22:15 "For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." John tells us clearly that sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers etc.... are outside the walls of the city New Jerusalem. These people haven't been cast into a physical, literal hell or lake of fire after all; or of those people whose names were written in the book of life and were saved, these people have now turned against God and are now idol worshipers, even after witnessing all that happened in the book of Revelations. It makes no sense! If we take everything that is written in the book of Revelations

literally the book contradicts itself. If, however, we look at the book symbolically then all the people weren't cast into a physical hell and the last chapter of the book of Revelations is telling the truth, evil people are still in existence on the earth and Revelations was fulfilled symbolically.

Finally, in conclusion, we must again remember. If the physical body of man can't go to heaven 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;" and so heaven is not a physical place for us to take up our new habitation: Luke 17:20 "The kingdom of God (heaven) cometh not with observation:" Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or lo there! for behold, the kingdom of God is within you." If heaven is not a physical place we can physically abide in why do we think hell is any different? It is clear that our spirit goes to a spiritual heaven not a physical heaven, when we are good, and conversely when we are bad our spirit goes to a spiritual hell and not a physical hell, hence there are still some bad people on the earth because being cast into the lake of fire was a symbolic event denoting a spiritual cleansing of the earth from corruption and not a literal event.

If all of this is not enough to give one pause to think that hell like heaven may not be a physical place, but more a state of mind: Zoroaster, a prophet before the time of Christ, who prophesied the coming of Christ, and who is indirectly acknowledged by Christianity by the coming of the three wise men, the Zoroastrian magi, who came and paid homage to Christ as a child, stated that heaven and hell were states of mind: "From the same jug, Mazda (God) distributes the portion to all. But one gets honey and another gets poison as his share. The pot is the same, and so its content is the same. The mentality of the recipient makes the difference." (ZOROASTER, Hymns of Atharvan p. 833)

Some people believe that everyone before Christ was stuck in hell. God is not a cruel monster of a God as this belief implies; and even the sinners may, after a while, through God's bounty be liberated from hell.

226. <u>There are some people who believe that everyone before Christ was stuck in hell or stuck in a grave when they died</u>. There are some people who believe that all people, this includes Abraham, Moses, Solomon, Daniel, all the children of Israel and anyone else you can think of in the Old Testament that lived before Jesus Christ, all went to stay in hell when they died. This was believed because it took Jesus Christ dying for our sins before God would let the people out of hell because all had sinned.

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "But the mass of the Christians believe that, as Adam ate of the forbidden tree, He sinned in that He disobeyed, and that the disastrous consequences of this disobedience have been transmitted as a heritage and have remained among His descendants. Hence Adam became the cause of the death of humanity. This explanation is unreasonable and evidently wrong, for it means that all men, even the Prophets and the Messengers of God, without committing any sin or fault, but simply because they are the posterity of Adam, have become without reason guilty sinners, and until the day of the sacrifice of Christ were held captive in hell in painful torment. This is far from the justice of God. If Adam was a sinner, what is the sin of Abraham? What is the fault of Isaac, or of Joseph? Of what is Moses guilty?"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 119)

There are other people, on the other hand, that are not so harsh in their beliefs and believe that we just remain in our graves and that we will stay there until the time of the resurrection during the second coming of Christ. Still there are other people that do not follow either of these two philosophies who believe that when we die we just shed our outer skin so to speak. After this we are met by angels, our lives

our reviewed and we go on living in spiritual form existing where our spiritual endeavors have put us.

As a Bahá'í I follow the third interpretation and believe we just go on living, getting more spiritual and ever progressing closer towards God. As a Bahá'í coming out of Christianity I was also interested in what the bible and Jesus Christ had to say about this. I found my first real lead in a story by Jesus Christ about a bagger and a rich man. After reading it a few times I have come to conclusion that the story of Lazarus and the rich man is something that should be closely considered before coming to any real conclusion about dying and the afterlife. It starts with: ✝ Christianity: Luke 16:19 "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:" Luke 16:20 "And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores," Luke 16:21 "And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores." Luke 16:22 "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;" Luke 16:23 "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." Luke 16:24 "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me." Luke 16:25 "But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." Luke 16:26 "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."

The first part of the story that caught my eye was when Lazarus died he was met by angels Luke 16:22 "the beggar died, and was carried by the angels." The second thing that caught my eye was where the angels took Lazarus, which was the bosom of Father Abraham Luke 16:22 "was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom." The third thing that caught my attention was that when the rich man died he wasn't left in the ground waiting for resurrection, but was still very much conscious Luke 16:23 "he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."

Here, Christ tells us in this one story that all three of them, Abraham, Lazarus and the rich man are very much conscious of themselves, each other and their surroundings; all things that I believe as a Bahá'í happen to us after death. As for the individual people that may look at this story and be skeptical, that say this story is only a story Christ used to teach his disciples by, let me say, there is more. I ran into something else Christ said about death that makes me believe this story, though I believe it is symbolic and deals with the spiritual reality of heaven and hell; and in doing so it also deals with resurrection and death.

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 12:26 "And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?" Mark 12:27 "He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: [ye therefore do greatly err]." Here Jesus is saying God is a God of the living and not a God of the dead and if you think otherwise you greatly err or you don't understand what God is really doing with us. What told me that this story was also about the resurrection was the other disciple's versions of this story: Matthew 22:31 "But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying," Matthew 22:32 "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Here Matthew is definitely telling us that Jesus Christ is talking to us about the resurrection of the dead. Luke goes on further then this to say that the dead are not in the ground any more but are already raised from the dead. And he also reiterates what both Matthew and Mark had to say "God is not a God of the dead but a God of the living. Luke 20:37 "Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Luke 38 "For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him." (For more information about death and the after life see heaven and hell are not physical places and original sin).**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is evident therefore according to His Holiness that the human spirit which is not fortified by the presence of the Holy**

Spirit is dead and in need of resurrection by that divine power; otherwise though materially advanced to high degrees man cannot attain full and complete progress."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 241)

Also, God did forgive sins according to Moses: ✡ Judaism: Leviticus 5:10 "And he shall offer the second for a burnt offering, according to the manner: and the priest shall make an atonement for him for his sin which he hath sinned, and it shall be forgiven him." Leviticus 16:30 "For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD." Leviticus 19:22 "And the priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering before the LORD for his sin which he hath done: and the sin which he hath done shall be forgiven him." If God held everyone responsible for Adam's first sin, why is God allowing man to make atonement for sins through the laws of Moses or for that matter why was Abraham ready to sacrifice his son at God's request? Are we saying it was all for nothing and Moses is a liar and a false prophet. But then Christ acknowledged Moses' law and accepted Moses as being a prophet from God, so the atonement for sins must be real, Christ acknowledged Moses' teachings as being from God: ✝ Christianity: John 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me." John 5:47 "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" And God's writings hint that those who find themselves in hell spiritually may after a time be liberated from their condition because of God's mercy and compassion, because God love for us, even when we are dead in sin, for Ephesians: 2:4 "God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us," 2:5 "Even when we were dead in sins:"

✡ JUDAISM: Ezekiel 18:32 "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith The Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." And, 33:11 "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live; for why will ye die." Psalms: 149:4 "For The LORD taketh pleasure in His people." 49:8 "For the redemption of their soul is precious;" 49:9 "That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption (or see hell)." Lamentations 3:33 "For He

(God) doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men." 3:34 "To crush under His feet all the prisoners of the earth." 3:31 "For The LORD will not cast off for ever, (the Lord will not leave His children in hell forever);" 3:32 "But though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion according to the multitude of His mercies." 3:33 "For He doth not afflict willingly;" Micah 7:18 "that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression, He retaineth not His anger for ever, because He delighteth in mercy," Jeremiah 3:12 "for I am merciful, saith The LORD, and I will not keep anger forever." Lamentations: For, 3:35 "To turn aside the right of a man before the face of The Most High," 3:36 "To subvert a man in his cause, The LORD approveth not." Tobias 13:2 "For He doth scourge, and hath mercy: He leadeth down to hell, and bringeth up again:" 1 Kings 2:6 "The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up." Tobias: "neither is there any that can avoid His hand." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Psalms 139:8 "If I ascend up into heaven, Thou (God) art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there:" Daniel 12:2 "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Ezekiel 20:43 "And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed." Isaiah 3:11 "Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him." So hell like heaven, is again, not a physical place to take up our spiritual residence after we pass on after this physical life; these places are mental spiritual states we find ourselves in after we leave our bodies behind, where we remember our doings. Psalms 16:10 "For Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption." For, 34:22 "The LORD redeemeth the soul of His servants; and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate." 111:9 "He sent redemption unto His people: (and) He hath commanded His covenant for ever; holy and reverend is His name," 130:7 "for with The LORD there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption." For, 3:8 "Salvation belongeth unto The LORD!" Jeremiah 3:23 "Truly in The LORD our God is the salvation." 68:20 So "He that is our God is The God of salvation." Psalms: For, 20:6 "The Lord, - He will hear him, (us) from His Holy Heaven with the saving strength." And so, 85:7 "Shew us Thy mercy, O

LORD, and grant us Thy salvation." For, 103:19 "The LORD hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all." 36:5 "Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens, and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds." 36:6 "Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; Thy judgments are a great deep; O LORD, (and) Thou preservest man and beast." 36:7 "How excellent is Thy loving kindness, O God!" 36:8 "They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of Thy house (heaven); and Thou shalt make them drink of the river of Thy pleasures." 36:9 "For with Thee is the fountain of life; in Thy light shall we see light." 57:10 "For Thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and Thy truth unto the clouds." 89:2 For Thy, "mercy shall be built up for ever; Thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens." 103:17 "The mercy of The LORD is from everlasting to everlasting." 89:11 "The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine." 96:11 "Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad." Jeremiah: For, 23:23 "am I a God at hand, saith The LORD, and not a God afar off?" 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith The LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith The LORD. 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! there is nothing too hard for Thee; 32:18 Thou shewest loving kindness unto thousands." So, Lamentations 3:26 "It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of The LORD." And so, Micah 7:7 "therefore I will look unto The LORD; I will wait for The God of my salvation." Psalms 130:7 "For with The LORD there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption." Proverbs: For, 29:17 "He shall give thee rest; yea, He shall give delight unto thy soul." For 20:27 "The spirit of man is the candle of The LORD." Micah 7:18 For, "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?" For, "He retaineth not His anger for ever, because He delighteth in mercy." Then, Isaiah 48:16 "Come ye near unto Me, (and) hear ye this; I have not spoken (it) in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now The Lord GOD, and His Spirit, hath sent me." 48:17 "Thus saith The LORD, thy Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel; I Am The LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go." So, Isaiah 45:22 "Look unto Me, and be ye saved!" Isaiah 64:4 "For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath, eye seen, O God, beside Thee, what He hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him (in heaven)."

For, Proverbs 20:27 "The spirit of man is the candle of The LORD." So, Ecclesiastics 7:8 "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning there-of." (The King James Bible) "And there I saw the mansions of the elect and the mansions of the holy (heaven being prepared for man)." (Other Apocrypha, The Book of Enoch) "Now therefore give God thanks: for I (we) go up to Him (join God in heaven)." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Tobias) Ecclesiastes: "For the spirit of man (the soul) that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast (the physical body of man), that goeth downward to the earth;"

 **CHRISTIANITY: Wisdom 16:13 "For Thou (God) hast power of life and death; Thou leadest to the gates of hell, and bringest up again." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Acts 2:27 For, "Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell!" You see, all is up to God, with Him even the sinful can be liberated from hell at His discretion! Ephesians 2:4 "God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us," 2:5 "Even when we were dead in sins," Micah 7:18 For, "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression? (and) He retaineth not his anger for ever, because He delighteth in mercy." 1 Timothy 2:3 "For God our Saviour;" 4:10 "Who is the Saviour of all men," 2:4 "will have all men to be saved," For, 1 Thessalonians 5:9 "God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation." Luke: 12:32 "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom (give you heaven)." For, John 14:2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." For, 1 Corinthians 2:9 "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them (in heaven)." 1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be The God and Father of our Lord, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us," 1:4 "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know thou, that I have wafted unto thee all the fragrances of holiness, have fully revealed to thee My word, have perfected through thee My bounty and have desired for thee, that which I have desired for My Self. Be then content with My pleasure and thankful unto Me." (Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words) "We, verily,**

desire for you naught save what shall profit you, and to this bear witness all created things, had ye but ears to hear." (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 75) "I confess that Thou hast no desire except the regeneration of the whole world, and the establishment of the unity of its peoples, and the salvation of all them that dwell therein." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 243) God desires good for us, and He desires for us what He desires for Himself, and so He desires heaven for us. "There is no God, but One God, and all the Messengers, from the beginning to the Seal of the Prophets (Muhammad) were sent on the part of, The True One!" (Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of the Divine Plan, p. 78) "May be raised; the flag' (may the flag be raised) - of the oneness of the world of humanity, be unfurled, the melody of universal peace may reach the ears of the East and the West, (may the melody of universal peace be unfurled and reach the ears of the east and the west), all the paths may be cleared and straightened, all the hearts may be attracted to the Kingdom of God (and all the paths be cleared and straightened and all hearts be attracted to The Kingdom of God)!" (Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of the Divine Plan, p. 78) This paragraph was written in a Spanish prose or format. I have added statements in parenthesis, within this paragraph, for those people who are not familiar with Spanish prose; to help those people who are not familiar with Spanish writing, make sense out of what is being said. "I desire for you, such a spiritual effulgence as will give you power to make ideal advancement and enter The Kingdom of El-Abha (enter heaven)." (Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 129) "I beg of God to illumine you with the light of His love so that you may enter into The Kingdom and draw nigh unto The Threshold." (Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 129) "Enable Thy servants, O my God, to discover the things Thou didst desire for them in Thy Kingdom." (Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 198) "Day and night I pray to Heaven for you that strength may be yours, and that, one and all, you may participate in the blessings of Bahá'u'lláh, and enter into The Kingdom (go to heaven)." (Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 95) "Issue forth from your habitations and bid the people enter The Kingdom of God, The Lord of the Day of Judgement." (Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 59) "O beloved of God! Is there any giver save God? He chooseth for His mercy whomsoever He desireth. He shall open unto you the doors of His knowledge, fill your hearts with His love,

rejoice your spirits by the wafting of His holy fragrances, illumine your faces by the Manifest Light and elevate your names among the people." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 386) "Verily, thy Lord is The Mighty, The Powerful! He reviveth whomsoever He wisheth by the spirit of righteousness, and granteth unto whom He wisheth great bounty, (He) guideth whom He wisheth unto the path of life, and confirmeth whom He desireth in attaining The Kingdom of God." (Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 50) "Any soul that enters The Kingdom of BAHA'U'LLAH will enjoy an eternal communion with God. It is my hope that each of you may enter This Kingdom." (Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 99) For, "The light of God is verily shining in the face of the man who is of The Kingdom, spiritual, heavenly, divine." (Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 70) Clearly God desires heaven for us, Baha'u'llah repeatedly tells us this. But, "if man does not become the recipient of the heavenly bestowals and spiritual bounties, he remains in the plane and kingdom of the animal; they are captives of nature, unconscious of the spiritual world, uninformed of the divine Kingdom and unaware of heavenly bestowals." (Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 69) For man, "although he possesses all the virtues of the lower kingdoms (animal kingdom, etc...), he is further endowed with the spiritual faculty, the heavenly gift of consciousness." (Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 91) "There he witnesses and realizes that the world of nature is a world of gloom, whereas The Kingdom (Kingdom of The Spirit), is a world of radiance; the world of nature is a world of defects, The Kingdom (heaven), is a realm of perfection; the world of nature (the physical world) is a world without enlightenment, the Kingdom of spiritual humanity is a heaven of illumination." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 332) "If no fruits of The Kingdom appear in the garden of his soul, if he is bereft of divine bounties, spiritual susceptibilities and heavenly glad tidings, man is not in the image and likeness of God; but if those fruits are forthcoming, he becomes the recipient of ideal bestowals and is enkindled with the fire of the love of God." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 335) "If his morals become spiritual in character, his aspirations heavenly and his actions conformable to the will of God, man has attained the image and likeness of his Creator; otherwise, he is the image and likeness of Satan." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of

Universal Peace, p. 335) “Therefore, Christ hath said, ‘Ye shall know them by their fruits.’” (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 335) “What are the fruits of the human world? They are the spiritual attributes which appear in man. If man is bereft of those attributes, he is like a fruitless tree.” (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 336) “One whose aspiration is lofty and who has developed self-reliance will not be content with a mere animal existence. He will seek the divine Kingdom; he will long to be in heaven although he still walks the earth in his material body, and though his outer visage be physical, his face of inner reflection will become spiritual and heavenly.” (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 336) “Until this station is attained by man, his life will be utterly devoid of real outcomes. The span of his existence will pass away in eating, drinking and sleeping, without eternal fruits, heavenly traces or illumination -- without spiritual potency, everlasting life or the lofty attainments intended for him during his pilgrimage through the human world.” (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 336) “It is my wish that you shall arise to live according to these teachings and exhortations; that all of us may be divinely strengthened, enter the paradise of the spiritual Kingdom, diffuse the lights of the Sun of Truth, cause the waves of this Most Great Ocean to reach all human souls so that this world of earth may be transformed into the world of heaven and this devastated ground be changed into the paradise of Abha.” (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 461) Again, it is God's wish that all of mankind join Him in heaven. For, “The Spirit of God is giving eternal life.” (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 19) “Men have always been taught and led by the Prophets of God; The Prophets of God are the Mediators of God. All the Prophets and Messengers have come from One Holy Spirit and bear the Message of God, fitted to the age in which they appear. The One Light is in them and they are One with each other. But the Eternal does not become phenomenal; neither can the phenomenal become Eternal.” (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 24) “To man, the Essence of God is incomprehensible, so also are the worlds beyond this, and their condition. It is given to man to obtain knowledge, to attain to great spiritual perfection, to discover hidden truths and to manifest even the attributes of God; but still man cannot comprehend the Essence of God. Where the ever-widening circle of

man's knowledge meets the spiritual world, a Manifestation of God is sent to mirror forth His splendour." (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 66) So, "The Essence of God is incomprehensible to the human mind, for the finite understanding cannot be applied to this infinite Mystery. God contains all: He cannot be contained. That which contains is superior to that which is contained. The whole is greater than its parts. Things which are understood by men cannot be outside their capacity for understanding, so that it is impossible for the heart of man to comprehend the nature of the Majesty of God. Our imagination can only picture that which it is able to create." (Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 24)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: But again, God only desires good for His children, "According to Them, Heaven is the state of perfection, and Hell that of imperfection; Heaven is harmony with God's will and with our fellows, and Hell is the want of such harmony; Heaven is the condition of spiritual life, and Hell that of spiritual death. A man may be either in Heaven or in Hell while still in the body. The joys of Heaven are spiritual joys; and the pains of Hell consist in the deprivation of these joys." (Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 191) "They say: 'Where is Paradise, and where is Hell?' Say: 'The one is reunion with Me; the other thine own self.'" (Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 191) "Thy Paradise is My love; thy heavenly home, reunion with Me." (Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words) "Think ye of love and good fellowship as the delights of heaven, think ye of hostility and hatred as the torments of hell." (Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 244) "From the moment the soul leaves the body and arrives in the Heavenly World, its evolution is spiritual, and that evolution is: The approaching unto God." (Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 66) "The soul does not evolve from degree to degree as a law -- it only evolves nearer to God, by the Mercy and Bounty of God." (Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 66) "What fire is fiercer on the Day of Reckoning than that of remoteness from the divine Beauty and the celestial Glory?" (Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 44) Clearly we see, in the Baha'i writings, that heaven and hell are again not physical places, but spiritual states of mind. "The paradise and hell of existence are found in all the worlds of God, whether in this world or in the spiritual heavenly worlds." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith -**

Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 323) "He (God) does not punish us for our sins and shortcomings, and we are all immersed in the ocean of His infinite mercy. Inasmuch as God is clement and loving to His children, lenient and merciful toward our shortcomings, why should we be unkind and unforgiving toward each other? As He loves humanity without distinction or preference, why should we not love all?" (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 315) Then again, "What fire is fiercer on the Day of Reckoning than that of remoteness from the divine Beauty and the celestial Glory?" (Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 44) The Creator does not wish hell and destruction on us, we do that to ourselves, without even realizing it! God is All-Loving and All-Merciful and filled with forgiveness; and so, "it is even possible that the condition of those who have died in sin and unbelief may become changed; that is to say, they may become the object of pardon through the bounty of God, not through His justice; for bounty is giving without desert, and justice is giving what is deserved." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 329) (Baha'i Faith: Paris Talks, pp. 23, 66, 95, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 19, 24, 66, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 244, Divine Philosophy, p. 99, Tablets of the Divine Plan, pp. 78, 129, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, pp. 50, 70, 207, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, pp. 177, 258, 315, 316, 332, 335, 461, Baha'i World Faith - pp. 323, 329, 386, The Arabic Hidden Words 70 and The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 75, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 198, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 132 and The Arabic Hidden Words, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 44, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 243 and Baha'u'llah, Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 190)

Help must be practical.

227. Help must be practical common sense and the writings of the religions of God tell us. What good is it to tell someone to be safe and warm in the middle of the cold of winter and not give them the means of getting warm? ✡ Judaism: Proverbs 3:28 "Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come

again, and tomorrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee." We are not meant to practice our faith in just words alone. If we see someone in need we are to help our brother in need and not just think about it. Christianity: 1 John 3:17 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" Of what use are we if we see our brother and sister in need and all we do is wish them good will. Will good words fill their belly when they are hungry? Christianity: James 2:15 "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food," James 2:16 "And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" Being good to your neighbor in deeds and not just in words is not only a teaching of the bible it is also found in the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith as well.

BAHA'I FAITH: "We know that to help the poor and to be merciful is good and pleases God, but knowledge alone does not feed the starving man, nor can the poor be warmed by knowledge or words in the bitter winter; we must give the practical help of Loving kindness."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 60)

Humility leads to loftiness, while pridefulness leads to degradation of the human soul.

228. Humility and pride. In the religions of God, we find that the practice of humility leads to loftiness, while the practice of pridefulness leads to degradation of the human soul. One is very good to have the other leads to the damnation of the soul: In the Bahá'í Faith we read that man needs to be humble to approach God and the kingdom on high, while pride if left unchecked will lead to man's degradation. This is also a teaching found in the bible. Judaism: Psalms 10:4 "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts."

Psalms 25:9 “The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.”

BAHA’I FAITH: “Humility exalteth man to the heaven of glory and power, whilst pride abaseth him to the depths of wretchedness and degradation.”

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 29)

JUDAISM: Proverbs 16:19 “Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.” Proverbs 18:12 “Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.” Proverbs 22:4 “By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.” Proverbs 29:23 “A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.”

BAHA’I FAITH: “Humility and self-effacement are the signs of spiritual growth, whereas pride in one's self and one's accomplishments is a deadly enemy.”

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 1, p. 74)

JUDAISM: Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” Christianity: Matthew 18:4 “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

BAHA’I FAITH: “If thou art seeking everlasting glory, choose humility in the path of the True One.”

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 214)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 23:12 “And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.”

Luke 18:14 "…..every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

BAHA'I FAITH: "There can be no doubt that whoever is cognizant of this truth, is cleansed and sanctified from all pride, arrogance, and vainglory."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 44)

CHRISTIANITY: Colossians 3: 12 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;" James 4:6 "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." 1 Peter 5:5 "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Be humble and submissive to God and chant the verses of thanksgiving at morn and eve, for that He guided thee unto the Manifest Light and showed to thee the straight Path and destined to thee the station of nearness in His wonderful Kingdom."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 359)

God humbles us to help prepare us for the life to come.

229. God humbles us to help prepare us for the life to come.

Judaism: Deuteronomy 8:2 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no." Deuteronomy

8:11 “Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:” 8:12 “Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;” 8:13 “And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;” 8:14 “Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;” 8:15 “Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;” 8:16 “Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;” 8:17 “And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.” ✝ Christianity: 2 Corinthians 12:21 “My God will humble me among you,” 1 Peter 5:5 “Be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

BAHA’I FAITH: “Supplicate to God, pray to Him and invoke Him at midnight and at dawn. Be humble and submissive to God and chant the verses of thanksgiving at morn and eve, for that He guided thee unto the Manifest Light and showed to thee the straight Path and destined to thee the station of nearness in His wonderful Kingdom.”

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 359)

Idol worship can be anything we place above God.

230. Idol worship can be anything we place above God and not just stone statues. The idols we worship, in the writings of God, can be anything we set our hearts on like the love of money or material things we seek in our hearts. Idols are anything we place above our worshipping of God. ✝ Christianity: 1 Corinthians 10:19 “What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in

sacrifice to idols is any thing?" Idols, the bible and the Bahá'í writings tell us, is anything we place in our hearts above God and not just little statues we give food and drink to that neither eat nor drink.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Hear ye not the shrill voice of My Most Exalted Pen? See ye not this Sun that shineth in refulgent splendour above the All-Glorious Horizon? For how long will ye worship the idols of your evil passions? Forsake your vain imaginings, and turn yourselves unto God, your Everlasting Lord."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 34)

 **JUDAISM: Ezekiel 13:2 "And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying," Ezekiel 13:3 "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?" Ezekiel 13:4 "Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;" Ezekiel 13:5 "That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols." Ezekiel 13:6 "Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations." Ezekiel 13:7 "For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumbling-block of his iniquity before his face and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by me:" Ezekiel 13:8 "And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I am the LORD."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "That hour is now come. The world is illumined with the effulgent glory of His countenance. And yet, behold how far its**

peoples have strayed from His path! None have believed in Him except them who, through the power of the Lord of Names, have shattered the idols of their vain imaginings and corrupt desires and entered the city of certitude.” .

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 12)

“Arise, O people, and, by the power of God's might, resolve to gain the victory over your own selves, that haply the whole earth may be freed and sanctified from its servitude to the gods of its idle fancies -- gods that have inflicted such loss upon, and are responsible for the misery of, their wretched worshipers. These idols form the obstacle that impedeth man in his efforts to advance in the path of perfection. We cherish the hope that the Hand of Divine power may lend its assistance to mankind, and deliver it from its state of grievous abasement.”

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 93)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Philippians 3:18 “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:” Philippians 3:19 “Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, (appetite) and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.”**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “I render Thee thanks that Thou hast made known unto me such servants as have utterly abolished, by the power of Thy might and of Thy sovereignty, the idols of their corrupt desires, and were not kept back by the things which are possessed by Thy creatures from turning in the direction of Thy grace.” .**

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 77)

“I beseech Thee, O Thou the Shaper of all the nations and the Quickener of every moldering bone, to graciously enable Thy servants to recognize Him Who is the Manifestation of Thy Self and the Revealer of Thy transcendent might, that they may cut down, by Thy

power, all the idols of their corrupt inclinations, and enter beneath the shadow of Thine all-encompassing mercy, which, by virtue of Thy name, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious, hath surpassed the entire creation."

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 200)

Image of God; the manifestations of God are the images of God on this earth.

231. Image of God, Christ was the image of God on this earth, and the manifestations of God are the images of God on this earth. Christ did not profess to be God on this earth in fact he clearly indicated that God was in heaven not on the earth. Christianity: Matthew 23: 9 "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." Christ clearly makes distinction here by stating that no one currently on the earth is worthy of the title of father, and only God who is in heaven should be called Father.

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 18:10 "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." God would have to be in heaven for the angels to always behold His face in heaven; so what was Christ on this earth? He was the image of God: 2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:" 2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." Christ was the image of God on this earth, not God on this earth. John tells us that no man on this earth hath seen God. 1 John 4:12 "No man hath seen God at any time."

BAHA'I FAITH: "God is pure perfection, and creatures are but imperfections. For God to descend into the conditions of existence would be the greatest of imperfections; on the contrary, His manifestation, His appearance, His rising are like the reflection of the sun in a clear, pure, polished mirror."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 113)

Christ is like a clear and perfect mirror in which the image of God is reflected to the world of mankind: Christianity: Colossians 1:15 "Who is (Jesus) the image of the invisible God," Christ is not God he is the reflection of God to mankind.

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Perfect Man is in the condition of a clear mirror in which the Sun of Reality becomes visible and manifest with all its qualities and perfections. So the Reality of Christ was a clear and polished mirror of the greatest purity and fineness. The Sun of Reality, the Essence of Divinity, reflected itself in this mirror and manifested its light and heat in it; but from the exaltation of its holiness, and the heaven of its sanctity, the Sun did not descend to dwell and abide in the mirror. No, it continues to subsist in its exaltation and sublimity, while appearing and becoming manifest in the mirror in beauty and perfection."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 112)

(See trinity for more information on the individuality of Christ and God)

We are to strive to become the image of God's manifestation on this earth.

232. We are to strive to become the image of God's manifestation on this earth. Christianity: 2 Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there

is liberty." 2 Corinthians 3:18 "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass The Glory of The Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." Romans 8:27 "And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:29 "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:30 "Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We recognize in the manifestation of each one of them, whether outwardly or inwardly, the manifestation of none but God Himself, if ye be of those that comprehend. Every one of them is a mirror of God, reflecting naught else but His Self, His Beauty, His Might and Glory, if ye will understand. All else besides them are to be regarded as mirrors capable of reflecting the glory of these Manifestations Who are themselves the Primary Mirrors of the Divine Being, if ye be not devoid of understanding."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 73)

Imagination is not true worship but blind adherence to that which hath gone before.

233. Imagination is not true worship but blind adherence to that which hath gone before, or that which is believed to be true which is an illusion of what is right. Man must put away vain imagination and illusion and seek with an open mind that which is true: People imagine in their hearts that they know the truth about religion when in fact many are just following the practices of their ancestors before them and their beliefs are just pure imagination. ✡ Judaism: Jeremiah 13:10 "This evil people, which

refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them." This is one of the main reasons that the people in the time of a manifestation of God reject the words of God's holy prophet to mankind and cause untold hardship to God's holy ones and to the followers of God's truth. Christianity: John 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." John 5:47 "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" Jesus Christ is clear on this, had the people of his time truly believed the words of Moses, with a searching and pure heart, they would have seen the truth of Christ's words and harkened to God's call to mankind, but instead, they blindly followed the dictates of their fathers before them and put God's holy one to death and rejected Christ's truth. Judaism: Jeremiah 7:24 "But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward." This is also true for today with the coming of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. The people of today are also holding onto the practices of their fathers before them and are again rejecting God's truth for today.

BAHA'I FAITH: "They follow superstitions inherited from their fathers and ancestors. To such an extent has this prevailed that they have taken away the heavenly light of divine truth and sit in the darkness of imitations and imaginations. That which was meant to be conducive to life has become the cause of death; that which should have been an evidence of knowledge is now a proof of ignorance;"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 238)

CHRISTIANITY: John 4:22 "Ye worship ye know not what....." This is the state of the people of today they know not what they worship? Psalms 2:1 ".....the people imagine a vain thing?" The people imagine a vain thing and call it truth, but, according to Paul what they believed is truth was still a vain thing during the time of Christ. Acts 4:25 "..... the people imagine vain things?" This practice hasn't changed for today either. A great many people are still holding onto their vain imaginings while turning away from God's truth for this day. Acts 25:17

"Therefore, when they were come hither, without any delay on the morrow I sat on the judgment seat, and commanded the man to be brought forth." Acts 25:18 "Against whom when the accusers stood up, they brought none accusation of such things as I supposed: 25:19 But had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The people of darkness imagine that they can oppose (this Revelation); yet, ere long they shall find themselves in loss and consternation! They shall observe that the power of the Word of God hath subdued East and West. Be thou not sad and dispirited on account of the opposition of the heedless ones. Soon they shall regret sorely. Reflect thou how the Pharisees persecuted and looked down in contempt upon His Holiness the Christ. The result was that His lamp became ignited, His light began to shine and His followers sparkled like unto the stars from the horizon of existence; and the consequence to the Pharisees was the pangs of remorse and regrets."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 221)

JUDAISM: Jeremiah 11:8 "Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not." Jeremiah 16:12 "And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart,"

BAHA'I FAITH: "People for the most part delight in superstitions. They regard a single drop of the sea of delusion as preferable to an ocean of certitude. By holding fast unto names they deprive themselves of the inner reality and by clinging to vain imaginings they are kept back from the Dayspring of heavenly signs. God grant you may be graciously aided under all conditions to shatter the idols of superstition and to tear away the veils of the imaginations of men. Authority lieth in the grasp of God, the Fountainhead of revelation and inspiration and the Lord of the Day of Resurrection."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 58)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 2:6 "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to naught:" 1 Corinthians 2:7 "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:" 1 Corinthians 2:8 "Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." 1 Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Corinthians 2:10 "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Corinthians 2:11 "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." 1 Corinthians 2:12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." 1 Corinthians 2:13 "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." 1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:15 "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man." 1 Corinthians 2:16 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The first teaching of Bahá'u'lláh is the duty incumbent upon all to investigate reality. What does it mean to investigate reality? It means that man must forget all hearsay and examine truth himself, for he does not know whether statements he hears are in accordance with reality or not. Wherever he finds truth or reality, he must hold to it, forsaking, discarding all else; for outside of reality there is naught but superstition and imagination. For example, during the days of Jesus Christ the Jews were expecting the**

appearance of the Messiah, praying and beseeching God day and night that the Promised One might appear. Why did they reject Him when He did appear? They denied Him absolutely, refused to believe in Him. There was no abuse and persecution which they did not heap upon Him. They reviled Him with curses, placed a crown of thorns upon His head, led Him through the streets in scorn and derision and finally crucified Him. Why did they do this? Because they did not investigate the truth or reality of Christ and were not able to recognize Him as the Messiah of God. Had they investigated sincerely for themselves, they would surely have believed in Him, respected Him and bowed before Him in reverence. They would have considered His manifestation the greatest bestowal upon mankind. They would have accepted Him as the very Savior of man; but, alas, they were veiled, they held to imitations of ancestral beliefs and hearsay and did not investigate the truth of Christ. They were submerged in the sea of superstitions and were, therefore, deprived of witnessing that glorious bounty; they were withheld from the fragrances or breaths of the Holy Spirit and suffered in themselves the greatest debasement and degradation."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 62)

Independent investigation of truth.

234. <u>Independent investigation of truth</u>. In the Bahá'í Faith we have no clergy, the Bahá'í writings encourage us to investigate truth for ourselves using reason and wisdom to come to our very own conclusions:

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "He (Bahá'u'lláh) lays stress on the search for Truth. This is most important, because the people are too easily led by tradition. It is because of this that they are often antagonistic to each other, and dispute with one another. But the manifesting of Truth discovers the darkness and becomes the cause of Oneness of faith and belief: because Truth cannot be two! That is not possible"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, pp. 27 thru 28)

This is also a subtle teaching found in the bible if we look for it. Christianity: 1 Thessalonians 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Judaism: Deuteronomy 27:26 "Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them." Man must look for the truth in all things if he really wants to know what God is trying to say. And if he proves all things to himself he doesn't blindly go down the wrong path. Christianity: Luke 6:39 ".....Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Each must see with his own eyes, hear with his own ears and investigate the truth himself in order that he may follow the truth instead of blind acquiescence and imitation of ancestral beliefs."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 246)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Man is not intended to see through the eyes of another, hear through another's ears nor comprehend with another's brain."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 76)

CHRISTIANITY: John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." The word of God is spiritual in nature it is not something that someone can just tell you with no effort on your part. The words are life for those that seek this spiritual life, Christianity: 1 Corinthians 2:10 "The Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." We must look for ourselves and see where God is leading us. Judaism: Isaiah 34:16 "Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and

read:" If we choose not to look for ourselves and look into the written word we only deprive ourselves of the hidden mysteries that God is willing to share with us and, in effect, leave the door leading to the kingdom only slightly ajar and not fully open to the spiritual gifts beyond.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Among these teachings was the independent investigation of reality so that the world of humanity may be saved from the darkness of imitation and attain to the truth; may tear off and cast away this ragged and outgrown garment of 1,000 years ago and may put on the robe woven in the utmost purity and holiness in the loom of reality."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 285)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect....." Romans 12:9 "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Search for truth. Seek the realities in all religions. Put aside all superstitions."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 62)

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 5:1 "And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them." Learn them, keep them and do them. To learn something is to know something, it is not just blind memorization. It takes effort on our part to know something. And to know something is not just blind allegiance to an idea that may or may not be valid. To know something is to make it part of you, like God's laws, to know them is to make them part of your life which is to follow them and do them. It takes active effort on our part to do this it is not just leaving the work to someone else.**

Deuteronomy 12:28 "Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God." Moses warns the people to observe and hear the word of God. One of the meanings of this word, observe, is to see. We are to see the words of God in our minds and not just passively hear them. Another meaning of the word is to conform and do. We are to conform and to follow and do these things, that is, make these words part of our lives. Again, this is not passive acceptance and blind adherence to God's word it is active desire to do what is right in the path of the Lord. Deuteronomy 17:19 "And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:" Here Moses says it plainly. We are to read all the days of our lives that we may learn the fear of God. So that this fear may guide us to learn all of God's words, so we can keep all of His precepts, so His teachings will be reflected in all of our endeavors throughout all of our lives.

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 1:17 "Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:" God wants man to learn to do well and to use reason. We are to reason things out for ourselves and with others that the truth of a matter may be known from falsehood. Going a step further, when one studies the word of God reason is used to find the true meaning of the word; which helps us learn to do well so we can live a better life and make more of a lasting impact on the world around us. Isaiah 28:9 "Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts." Isaiah 28:10 "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:" We are to endeavor, with God's help, to understand His doctrine. To do this we must study the word of God precept upon precept or teaching upon teaching; and read the written word line upon line, line upon line until understanding enlightens us. Clearly Isaiah is telling us that we are to read the text of God thoroughly one line at a time and leave nothing**

out that we may personally understand God's purpose for us and not just blindly adhere to dogmas and theologies of the past.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Investigate reality. Man must leave imitation and seek reality. The contemporaneous religious beliefs differ because of their allegiance to dogma. It is necessary, therefore, to abandon imitations and seek their fundamental reality."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 169)

 **JUDAISM: Lamentations 3:40 "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This is the day when dogmas must be sacrificed in our search for truth."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 67)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 9:13 "But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Christ states it plainly. We are to go, or in this case to make an effort, to learn the meaning of God's words. One way this can be done is if each individual makes the effort to understand what Jesus was saying and implement these teachings into our lives. Matthew 11:29 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Again, Christ wants the people to make the effort to know him, to take the time out of their lives to study his teachings and really get to know what he is about; and again not to just blindly adhere to dogma.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God has given man the eye of investigation by which he may see and recognize truth."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 14:2 "The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God." Psalms 52:2 "God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God." The Lord looked down from heaven to see if anyone understood His teachings and was actively seeking Him. David doesn't say God looked down from heaven to see what the rabbis or the priests or any other members of the Jewish clergy were doing. David states that God looked down to see if any or anyone understood His teachings and was actively seeking Him. That is to say God was trying to find anyone amongst the children of men, not just the clergy, who were actively seeking Him; that includes you, me and everyone.**

You don't have to be a member of the clergy to seek out The Lord. God is expecting every person who is among the children of men to seek Him out. That means that everyone who is a human being is responsible, before God, to seek Him out. Otherwise how could anyone be responsible for the state of their soul after they leave this mortal world and face the repercussions of their actions in this life?

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 119:26 "I have declared my ways, and Thou heardest me: teach me Thy statutes." Psalms 119:27 "Make me to understand the way of Thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works." Proverbs 1:5 "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:" Solomon is saying that a wise man will hear and increase his learning. That is to imply that a man is wise who is ready to hear and understand God's word. It also implies that a man is unwise to plug up his ears and ignore the teachings of God. So, it still comes down to the fact that it is the responsibility of each individual man and woman to understand the teachings of God; no one else can do that for you.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The first is the independent investigation of truth; for blind imitation of the past will stunt the mind."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 248)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 2:2 "So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;" Proverbs 2:3 "Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;" Proverbs 2:4 "If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;" Proverbs 2:5 "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God." Proverbs 2:6 "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." We find that Solomon is wisely instructing the individual on how to seek after the knowledge of God. If it wasn't up to the individual to learn and know the teachings of God why would Solomon, one of the wisest men to have ever lived, instruct the individual on how to discover the mysteries of God? Proverbs 8:9 "They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge." To find knowledge takes effort on the part of the individual, knowledge doesn't just come to those who sit and wait. The acquisition of learning takes time and active perseverance on the part of the individual, if people are to learn and truly reach an understanding of God's teachings. This is right in the eyes of God. It is right for man to seek out the knowledge of The Lord and try and understand His purpose for us in this world. And this seeking out after the knowledge of The Lord is more important in the eyes of God then all the riches in the world:**

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 8:10 "Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold." Proverbs 8:11 "For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it." Knowledge and wisdom are more important than gold and silver, more precious than diamonds and emeralds. With knowledge man can understand the workings of the universe and with wisdom man can recognize the exulted greatness of Christ and Bahá'u'lláh and see that their mission is from The Lord, when multitudes of others are blind to the dawning of a new revelation on the horizon.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is evident, therefore, that there is nothing of greater importance to mankind than the investigation of truth."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 14:8 "The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit." Proverbs 14:15 "The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going." The simple man believes every word he hears, but the prudent and wise man looks into the matter and ascertains the truth for himself. That way he can understand the reality of the way of God for himself. Proverbs 25:2 "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter." This verse tells us that God conceals hidden meaning in his word. This verse also tells us that it is the honour of kings or those people who would use judgment in their affairs to search out the matter and seek out the truth; that way each man can come to a real conclusion on his own about that which is hidden in the word. Proverbs 28:5 "Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things." It is up to all people, or all mankind, to seek out The Lord, but many don't. It is they, those people with desire in their hearts, that will seek out The Lord and come to an understanding of just what He is trying accomplish with us. It is they that will understand all things.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He must not be an imitator or blind follower of any soul. He must not rely implicitly upon the opinion of any man without investigation; nay, each soul must seek intelligently and independently, arriving at a real conclusion and bound only by that reality."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 3:4 "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" This verse states its message quite plainly. Paul is telling the individual believers to read his epistles for themselves, so they themselves can come to an**

understanding of Paul's knowledge and learn of the mysteries of Christ.

 **JUDAISM: Ecclesiastes 1:13 "And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." It takes a little scrutinizing on the part of the one reading this verse to understand how this verse relates to independent investigation of truth; but with a little effort on our part to understand this verse the truth of it stands out.**

Solomon is saying that he gave his heart, or in simple laymen's terms he used intense effort on his part, to seek out and search, by using his wisdom or in simple laymen's terms using reason and logic, to know all things that are done under heaven. What this means is Solomon wanted to know and understand everything under the sun. He wanted to know how thing's worked? He wanted to know how nature worked. He wanted to know and understand the intricacies of God's Holy Word. He wanted to know the hidden mysteries that secretly lay submerged in the verses of God's Holy Word. He wanted to know everything.

You may ask yourself how does this relate to me? How does this, in general, relate mankind? It is what Solomon said in the verse next that relates to us.  **Judaism: Ecclesiastes 1:13 ".....this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." Solomon tells us that this sore travail, or this painful work or exertion, "hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." What Solomon is saying is that this hard task of trying to know and understand what is going on in the world, this difficult task of trying to know and understanding the word of God, God has given to the sons of man, or mankind in general. We being sons of man or members of the human race are to exercise therewith, or in simple terms we are supposed to make an exerting effort to know what is going on around us. We, as individual human beings are also to put forth, with heart, or with great conviction on our part, intense effort to know and understand the word of God. We being the children of men are to, like Solomon, make the effort to comprehend the hidden meaning in the**

verses of God. We are to ferret out the subtle truths in the word that alludes great multitudes of people  Christianity: Matthew 13:13 "…..because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand."

It is this effort on our part to know the truth that Solomon warns us that God expects from us, that leads to the independent investigation of truth unhindered by superstition or tradition. We are to investigate for ourselves. That way only we are responsible for condition of our soul and the degree of spiritual progress we have made when we slough off this physical form and inter into the next life, in the world to come; and no one else.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The first teaching of Bahá'u'lláh is the duty incumbent upon all to investigate reality. What does it mean to investigate reality? It means that man must forget all hearsay and examine truth himself, for he does not know whether statements he hears are in accordance with reality or not. Wherever he finds truth or reality, he must hold to it, forsaking, discarding all else; for outside of reality there is naught but superstition and imagination. For example, during the days of Jesus Christ the Jews were expecting the appearance of the Messiah, praying and beseeching God day and night that the Promised One might appear. Why did they reject Him when He did appear? They denied Him absolutely, refused to believe in Him. There was no abuse and persecution which they did not heap upon Him. They reviled Him with curses, placed a crown of thorns upon His head, led Him through the streets in scorn and derision and finally crucified Him. Why did they do this? Because they did not investigate the truth or reality of Christ and were not able to recognize Him as the Messiah of God. Had they investigated sincerely for themselves, they would surely have believed in Him, respected Him and bowed before Him in reverence. They would have considered His manifestation the greatest bestowal upon mankind. They would have accepted Him as the very Savior of man; but, alas, they were veiled, they held to imitations of ancestral beliefs and hearsay and did not investigate the truth of Christ. They were submerged in the sea of superstitions and were, therefore, deprived of witnessing that glorious bounty; they were**

withheld from the fragrances or breaths of the Holy Spirit and suffered in themselves the greatest debasement and degradation."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 62)

JOY. When one has the love of God in their heart they should feel real joy in their heart.

235. JOY. When one has the love of God in their heart they should feel real joy in their heart and do the work of God for the love of God, and rejoice, for we are on the road to fulfilling that for which we were created to do: Bahá'í Faith: "God, by the very act of chastening them, He prepares them for the mission for which He has created them." (Shoghi Effendi, The Promised Day is Come, p. 115) "God in his wisdom has created all things. Nothing has been created without a special destiny, for every creature has an innate station of attainment." (Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 110)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 1:6 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations" 1:7 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" 1:8 "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:" 1:9 "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." Philippians 3:1 "My brethren, rejoice in the Lord." 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Romans 5:1 "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:" 5:2 "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" 12:13 "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."

12:14 “Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.” 12:15 “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” John 16:22 “And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.” Sirach 1:12 “The fear of the Lord maketh a merry heart, and giveth joy, and gladness.” Sirach 26:4 “Whether a man be rich or poor, if he have a good heart toward the Lord, he shall at all times rejoice with a cheerful Countenance.” (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Sirach)

 **JUDAISM: 1 Chronicles 16:10 “Glory ye in His holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.” 1 Chronicles 16:11 “Seek the LORD and His strength, seek his face continually.” Psalms 32:11 “Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.” Psalms 42:4 “When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise.” Jeremiah 15:15 “O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me,” Jeremiah 15:16 “Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy name, O LORD God of hosts.” Zechariah 10:7 “They of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.”**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “The love of God. He maketh the heart to dance for joy and filleth up the soul with an ecstasy of love and rapture.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 19)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Praised be God that following the firm decree of separation, the breeze of nearness and communion hath been stirred and the soil of the heart is refreshed with the waters of joy and gladness. We offer thanksgiving unto God in all circumstances and cherish the hope that He -- exalted be His glory -- may through His gracious providence guide all who dwell on earth towards that which is acceptable and pleasing unto Him.”**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 163)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Let your joy be the joy born of My Most Great Name, a Name that bringeth rapture to the heart, and filleth with ecstasy the minds of all who have drawn nigh unto God."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 38)

We cannot judge each other.

236. We are all created by God and only He knows what is in our hearts and what we are capable of so we cannot judge each other. As a Bahá'í we learn that only God can judge another man and only God knows his spiritual station. God has created all of us and only He knows what we are made of and what we are spiritually capable of: Christianity: Romans 2:1 "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." We don't know what we can achieve ourselves let alone what someone else is spiritually capable of. The scriptures tell us not to judge and this is because to some God might have spiritually given the measure of a spoon full of spiritual capability, to others might be given the measure of a cup, while others might have the measure of a gallon. Only God knows the spiritual allotment and condition of our soul: Christianity: Matthew 13:23 "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The whole duty of man in this Day is to attain that share of the flood of grace which God poureth forth for him. Let none, therefore, consider the largeness or smallness of the receptacle. The portion of some might lie in the palm of a man's hand, the portion of others might fill a cup, and of others even a gallon-measure."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 8)

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 4:12 "There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?" It is because of this lack of spiritual knowledge about the spiritual condition of another soul that makes it impossible for us to judge or even guess at the state of another soul. Matthew 7:1 "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Matthew 7:2 "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matthew 7:3 "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" Matthew 7:4 "Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?" Matthew 7:5 "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Who are we that we should judge? How shall we know who, in the sight of God, is the most upright man? God's thoughts are not like our thoughts! How many men who have seemed saint-like to their friends have fallen into the greatest humiliation."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 147)

 **JUDAISM: 1 Samuel 16:7 "the LORD seeth not as man seeth;" God looks beyond this mortal realm of ours into the very heart of reality. When we look at the mechanisms of existence we question; we ask how and why. God already knows the answers to these simple questions. His omniscience is all encompassing:**  **Christianity: Matthew 6:8 "Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." He knows what is in our hearts and He knows the full spiritual measure of our soul. Man cannot know what is truly in another man's heart and he cannot possibly know the measure of another man's soul. So, how can a man truly judge another man, what his spiritual progress is and how far he needs to ascend to reach his true spiritual pinnacle? He can't. Romans 12:3 "For I say, through the**

grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Luke 6:41 "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Night and day endeavor to attain perfect harmony; be thoughtful concerning your own spiritual developments and close your eyes to the shortcomings of one another."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 365)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 4:20 "And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred." Ephesians 4:7 "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Therefore, no one should glorify himself over another; no one should manifest pride or superiority toward another; no one should look upon another with scorn and contempt; and no one should deprive or oppress a fellow creature."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Corinthians 10:12 "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise." 2 Corinthians 10:13 "But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us," Paul states it eloquently, God distributes our measure out to us and only He knows what that measure is, so how can we possibly compare ourselves to another man not knowing his measure. If one man's measure is a cupful and another man's a gallon measure if the man with the cupful fills his cup of spiritual capacity**

while the man with the gallon measure only fills his spiritual capacity half way, even though the man with the half gallon has done more than the man with the full cupful who has done more righteously in the eyes of God?

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know thou that the Messianic Spirit and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is always manifest, but capacity and ability (to receive it) is more in some and less in others."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 193)

Day of Judgment.

237. Day of Judgment. The Day of Judgment is a day looked upon by many Christians with dread, while others look upon it with hope. Many people envision God sitting on a huge mighty thrown with all mankind spread out before Him in judgment of the whole human race.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "And the time of the dead, that they should be judged means that the time has come that the dead, that is to say, those who are deprived of the spirit of the love of God and have not a share of the sanctified eternal life -- will be judged with justice, meaning they will arise to receive that which they deserve."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 58)

Others do not see the Day of Judgment quite like this but see it as a time in which mankind will be judged to see if we recognize God's new message for the day and recognize God's new manifestation for the day. This is one meaning of the day of judgment found in the Bahá'í Faith. If we look at the Day of Judgment this way then every time a manifestation of God appears in the world, the Day of Judgment is at hand. What happens at that time is that, for one thing, we are judged to see if we are truly spiritually attuned to and understand the words of the pervious messenger. This is one thing that Christ did, he judged

mankind to see if they truly believed the words of Moses or whether they blindly followed the traditions and false beliefs of the previous generations. Christ's very own words tell us this: ✝ Christianity: John 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." John 5:47 "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" The other things mankind is judged for is do we recognize the new messengers words as being part of the same holy words from God that we previously accepted, and do we recognize Gods new world redeemer for the day as being sent from God.

If there is some question about the days Jesus Christ was on this earth being the days of judgment, Isaiah prophesied that Jesus was coming to judge mankind in the Old Testament: ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 42:1 "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment…." Isaiah 42:2 "He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street." Isaiah 42:3 "A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth." Isaiah 42:4 "He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law." Isaiah prophesies in the Old Testament that when Jesus Christ comes he will bring forth judgment and set judgment in the earth. This is later followed by Matthew's assertion that Jesus Christ is the one Isaiah was talking about: ✝ Christianity: Matthew 12:18 "Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment…." Matthew 12:19 "He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets." Matthew 12:20 "A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment…."

If this isn't enough to cause one to pause and realize the spiritual and symbolic nature of the Day of Judgment Jesus Christ comes straight out and tell us he has come to judge mankind: ✝ Christianity: John 9:39 "And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind." John 12:31 "Now is the judgment of this world:" Now is

the judgment of this world? It couldn't be stated any clearer. Christ came to judge the world of man and Christ's day was the Day of Judgment for that day.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Day of Judgment is the Day of the new Manifestation, by acceptance or rejection of Whose Revelation the sheep are separated from the goats, for the sheep know the voice of the Good Shepherd and follow Him."**

(Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 21)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 5:22 "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:" John 5:27 "And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man." John 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." 1 Peter 4:6 "For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit."**

This does not mean that men will not be judged when we pass beyond this mortal realm:  Judaism: Proverbs 24:12 "If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not He that pondereth the heart consider it? and He that keepeth thy soul, doth not He know it? and shall not He render to every man according to his works?"  Christianity: Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" Once we pass beyond this mortal world we are judged according to our actions in this life, which only makes sense.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bring thyself to account ere thou art summoned to a reckoning, on the Day when no man shall have strength to stand for fear of God, the Day when the hearts of the heedless ones shall be made to tremble."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 236)

This leads us up to this day and time. What needs to be understood here is that with the advent of Bahá'u'lláh the Day of Judgment prophesied by Jesus Christ in the New Testament is at hand and we are being judged to see if we recognize God's new messiah for this day and whether we accept God's new teachings for this day. Christianity: John 16:8 "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "For they who turn away from their Lord in this day are in truth accounted amongst the dead, though to outward seeming they may walk upon the earth, amongst the deaf, though they may hear, and amongst the blind, though they may see, as hath been clearly stated by Him Who is the Lord of the Day of Reckoning: 'Hearts have they with which they understand not, and eyes have they with which they see not....'"

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 48)

Kingdom of God is at hand.

238. Kingdom of God is at hand. Some people think of a city with pearly gates and streets make out of gold when they think of the kingdom of God, but Christ tells us that the Kingdom of God is not a physical place that can be observed. Christianity: Luke 21:27 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." Luke 21:31 "..... when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 17:20 "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:" Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." The Kingdom of God, which some call heaven, is not seen with observation but is found within us. The Kingdom of God is not a physical place for us to take up residence when we die, but a spiritual place that takes up no space and yet is found everywhere because it is with us where ever

we are. Luke 10:8 “And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:” 10:9 “And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.” Mark 1:15 “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand:” Jesus Christ was adamant about this during his day, the kingdom of God was at hand, but the people were so blinded to the spiritual nature of Christ’s words that most people failed to see beyond the literal interpretation of everything they heard failing to see the spiritual truth of Christ and thereby denying themselves entrance into God’s spiritual kingdom in this life.

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “In the fields and meadows of human hearts variegated flowers of inner significance were blooming and the good fruits of the kingdom of God became manifest.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 219)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” The Kingdom of God is not a place to eat or drink but is like state of mind in which we live in righteousness and experience peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “The rewards of the other world are peace, the spiritual graces, the various spiritual gifts in the Kingdom of God, the gaining of the desires of the heart and the soul, and the meeting of God in the world of eternity.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 4:20 “For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.” The Kingdom of God is not to be found or described in the words of a language. It is a force of spiritual nature not to be understood by us in this life time.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "But if the human spirit will rejoice and be attracted to the Kingdom of God, if the inner sight becomes opened, and the spiritual hearing strengthened, and the spiritual feelings predominant, he will see the immortality of the spirit as clearly as he sees the sun, and the glad tidings and signs of God will encompass him."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 325)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." Paul couldn't be any clearer, flesh and blood or the physical cannot be found in heaven because flesh and blood cannot inherit or exist in The Kingdom of God or heaven.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The doors of the Kingdom of God are open! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! Armies of Angels are descending from Heaven! The Sun of Truth is rising! Heavenly food is being sent from above! The Trumpet is sounding! The Banner of the Great Peace is floating far and wide! The Light of the Lamp of the Oneness of Humanity is shining bright! The fire of the Love of God is blazing! The Holy Spirit is being outpoured! For Everlasting Life is here!"**

"O Ye that sleep, Awake! O ye heedless ones, Learn wisdom! O Blind, receive your sight! O Deaf, Hear! O Dumb, Speak! O Dead, Arise! Be Happy! Be Happy!"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 126)

Knowledge of God and living by His word is the highest, noblest achievement we can make in this life.

239. Knowledge of God and living by His word is the highest, noblest achievement we can make in this life: Bahá'í Faith: "We have decreed, O people, that the highest and last end of all

learning be the recognition of Him Who is the Object of all knowledge;"

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 129)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This is the fundamental aspect of the religion of God and this is of the highest importance because knowledge of God is the fundamental requirement of man. Man must comprehend the oneness of divinity. He must come to know and acknowledge the precepts of God and realize for a certainty that the ethical development of humanity is dependent upon religion. He must get rid of all defects and seek the attainment of heavenly virtues in order that he may prove to be the image and likeness of God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 92)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 2:1 "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;" 2:2 "So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;" 2:3 "Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;" 2:4 "If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;" 2:5 "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God." Hosea 4:1 "Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land." Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." Hosea 6:6 "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Peter 1:2 "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God." 1:3 "According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue"**

1:4 “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises.” 2 Peter 3:18 “Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.” Colossians 1:9 “Be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Know that which is the cause of everlasting life, eternal honor, universal enlightenment, real salvation and prosperity is, first of all, the knowledge of God. It is known that the knowledge of God is beyond all knowledge, and it is the greatest glory of the human world. For in the existing knowledge of the reality of things there is material advantage, and through it outward civilization progresses; but the knowledge of God is the cause of spiritual progress and attraction, and through it the perception of truth, the exaltation of humanity, divine civilization, rightness of morals and illumination are obtained.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 300)

Promise of a one world language.

240. Promise of a one world language. Judaism: Zephaniah 3:9 “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “A universal language shall be adopted and be taught by all the schools and institutions of the world. A committee appointed by national bodies of learning shall select a suitable language to be used as a medium of international communication. All must acquire it. This is one of the great factors in the unification of man.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 241)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "A universal language shall be adopted and taught in the schools and academies of the world. A committee appointed by the national bodies shall select a suitable language to be used as a means of international communication."**

"Every one will need but two languages, his national tongue and the universal language. All will acquire the international language."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 26)

Latter days or last days or the end of the world.

241. Latter days or last days or the end of the world. We find, in the Bahá'í Writings, explanations about the biblical terms last days or end of the world and why these terms get used frequently in the scriptures by many different people. In the Bahá'í Writings we find that the terms last days or end of the world are often used to speak of the end of a spiritual cycle and the beginning of another and not the real end of the physical world. Christianity: Hebrews 1:1 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets," Hebrews 1:2 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Each of the Divine Manifestations has likewise a cycle, and during the cycle his laws and commandments prevail and are performed. When his cycle is completed by the appearance of a new Manifestation, a new cycle begins. In this way cycles begin, end, and are renewed,"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 54)

We find that the end of the world or last days is used by many different biblical prophets to prepare the future generations for the events that will be happening to them. These prophets are also prophesying of the coming of the next prophet and the ushering in of a

new prophetic cycle. It is because of this biblical truism that we find Jacob gathering his sons around him, near end of his life, speaking to them of the last days and what is to befall their progeny in the future. ✡ Judaism: Genesis 49:1 "And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days." Genesis 49:3 "Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:" Genesis 49:4 "Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch." Genesis 49:5 "Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations." Genesis 49:6 "O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall." Genesis 49:7 "Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel." etc... As you can read Jacob uses the term last days here to denote the future events of his son's offspring and not the last days of mankind on this earth. What Jacob did was symbolically refer to the end of a heavenly cycle of God's plan and the beginning of a new one.

Following this reasoning it is easier to understand Moses' use of the terms latter days, not to denote the physical end for all mankind, but again the end of a symbolic heavenly event with the advent and spiritual message of Jesus Christ. Here Moses tells his people what will befall them in this future time and what their state will be. ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 31:29 "For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands."

If this is not thought provoking enough, we find in the New Testament, in Hebrews, that Christ brought about the last day with his advent. ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 1:1 God, "who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets," Hebrews 1:2 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom

he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;" And if this was not clear enough proof that the advent of Jesus Christ ushered in a new heavenly cycle thereby bringing about the last days or the end of the cycle of the dispensation of Moses, Peter and John also reiterate on this theme also claiming that Jesus brought about the last days of the cycle of Moses with his advent on this earth: ✝ Christianity: 1 Peter 1:19 "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" 1 Peter 1:20 "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you," 1 John 2:18 "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." John and Peter seem pretty clear on this, with the advent of Jesus Christ's message to mankind the impetus of one heavenly cycle came to a close with the dawning of another progressive heavenly cycle to mankind.

Also, taking this train of reasoning further we find that not only did Jesus of Nazareth usher in the last days on earth with his coming, but he also brought about the end of the world as they knew it by his sacrifice. ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 9:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." Here it clearly states that Jesus' death was during the end of world, but as we are living and breathing, it is clearly easy to see that the term used here, end of the world, clearly was not meant to be a physical event, but a spiritual, symbolic event denoting, not the physical end of the world, but symbolically the spiritual ending of heavenly events. And, if this wasn't proof enough that the physical end of the world was not what was being talked about, Daniel promised: ✡ Judaism: Daniel 7:14 "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed,"

And Isaiah tells us: ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 9:7 "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David,

and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever." Isaiah further tells us: Isaiah 2:2 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." Isaiah 2:3 "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD." Isaiah 2:4 "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Clearly the last days or the end of the world is not meant to be a time of sorrows for God's children, but a time of wonders. God will establish His throne on the mountain of the Lord where His law will flow out to all of mankind and the people from all nations will flow onto God's mountain. This will not be a time of spiritual decimation to God's children, but a time of spiritual rejuvenation and exaltation. It will be a time of the ending of the old world order and the beginning of a new world order founded in the love of God.

The use of the term latter days does not end with the closing of the Christian era, Bahá'u'lláh gives warning of the actions of future generations of religious leaders:

BAHA'I FAITH: "Again concerning the divines of the Latter Days, He saith: "The religious doctors of that age shall be the most wicked of the divines beneath the shadow of heaven."

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 118)

Clearly this process of going from one spiritual cycle to another is not going to be ending any time soon. In fact, Paul tells us the world won't be ending: Christianity: Ephesians 3:21 "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Now we do know that eventually this world will come to an

end, with the death of our sun, but it won't be for a long, long time and in the meantime God will continue to send His manifestations to mankind to continue man's spiritual education from one spiritual cycle to another; and Bahá'u'lláh tells us this process will continue with the next manifestation from God in around one thousand years or so.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh will last until the coming of the next Manifestation of God, Whose advent will not take place before at least "a full thousand years" will have elapsed."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 195)

And the influence of Bahá'u'lláh's message, we are told will be felt for the next five hundred thousand years at least.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The magnitude of the Bahá'í cycle -- a cycle that must extend over a period of at least five hundred thousand years."**

(Shoghi Effendi, The World Order of Baha'u'llah, p. 102)

So, spiritual cycles with beginnings and endings from one spiritual guide of mankind to another, will be a continuing process of reoccurring revelations to mankind for untold millennia to come, with no foreseeable ending in sight.

Some older laws get changed when a new prophet comes.

242. Some older laws get changed when a new prophet comes. When a new prophet comes many laws of the former dispensation are out dated and no longer suited for the people of the new time. Therefore with the coming of each manifestation of God some older material laws are changed and some new laws are

revealed. The essential laws and ordinances of God dealing with the spiritual progress of mankind are not subject to change like this!

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When Christ came this was changed; the old axiom 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth' was converted into 'Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you', the stern old law being changed into one of love, mercy and forbearance!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 142)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:38 "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:" Matthew 5:39 "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Christ also changed many other laws that were no longer suitable for the time as-well Matthew 5:21 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:" Matthew 5:22 "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." Matthew 5:27 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:" Matthew 5:28 "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Matthew 5:29 "And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell." Matthew 5:31 "It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:" Matthew 5:32 "But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery." Matthew 5:33 "Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:" Matthew 5:34 "But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:" Matthew 5:35 "Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by**

Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King." Matthew 5:40 "And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." Matthew 5:41 "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." Matthew 5:42 "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." Matthew 5:43 "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy." Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" Matthew 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Matthew 5:46 "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?" Matthew 5:47 "And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?" Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Jesus also, as I said, changed the law Moses had for divorce and did so with good reason. ✝ Christianity: Matthew 19:6 "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matthew 19:7 "They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?" Matthew 19:8 "He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so."

Also, Jesus made it plain that it was alright to do work on the Sabbath day, if one had to, one of Moses strictest laws. ✝ Christianity: Matthew 12:10 "And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath days? that they might accuse him." Matthew 12:11 "And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the Sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?" Matthew 12:12 "How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the Sabbath days." Mark 2:27 "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath."

When mankind spiritually grows and develops old laws, as I said, that use to be needed because of more barbarous conditions of mankind's earlier development need to be changed and new laws that reflect man's current state of being need to be enacted. Here are some of the new laws that have been enacted for the Bahá'í era.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We have enjoined obligatory prayer upon you,"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 21)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O people of Baha! It is incumbent upon each one of you to engage in some occupation -- such as a craft, a trade or the like. We have exalted your engagement in such work to the rank of worship of the one true God."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 29)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To none is it permitted to seek absolution from another soul; let repentance be between yourselves and God. He, verily, is the Pardoner, the Bounteous, the Gracious, the One Who absolveth the repentant."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 30)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Rejoice not in the things ye possess; tonight they are yours, tomorrow others will possess them. Thus warneth you He Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 33)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The penalties for wounding or striking a person depend upon the severity of the injury; for each degree the Lord of Judgement hath prescribed a certain indemnity."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 39)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The eighth Glad-Tidings. The pious deeds of the monks and priests among the followers of the Spirit (Christ), upon Him be the peace of God, are remembered in His presence. In this Day, however, let them give up the life of seclusion and direct their steps towards the open world and busy themselves with that which will profit themselves and others. We have granted them leave to enter into wedlock that they may bring forth one who will make mention of God, the Lord of the seen and the unseen, the Lord of the Exalted Throne."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 24)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The eleventh Glad-Tidings. It is permissible to study sciences and arts, but such sciences as are useful and would redound to the progress and advancement of the people. Thus hath it been decreed by Him Who is the Ordainer, the All-Wise."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 25)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The third Glad-Tidings concerneth the study of divers languages. This decree hath formerly streamed forth from the Pen of the Most High: It behoveth the sovereigns of the world -- may God assist them -- or the ministers of the earth to take counsel together and to adopt one of the existing languages or a new one to be taught to children in schools throughout the world, and likewise one script. Thus the whole earth will come to be regarded as one country. Well is it with him who hearkeneth unto His Call and observeth that whereunto he is bidden by God, the Lord of the Mighty Throne."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 22)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The second Glad-Tidings. It is permitted that the peoples and kindreds of the world associate with one another with joy and radiance. O people! Consort with the followers of all religions in a**

spirit of friendliness and fellowship. Thus hath the day-star of His sanction and authority shone forth above the horizon of the decree of God, the Lord of the worlds."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 21)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O people of the earth! The first Glad-Tidings which the Mother Book hath, in this Most Great Revelation, imparted unto all the peoples of the world is that the law of holy war hath been blotted out from the Book. Glorified be the All-Merciful, the Lord of grace abounding, through Whom the door of heavenly bounty hath been flung open in the face of all that are in heaven and on earth."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 21)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The tenth Glad-Tidings. As a token of grace from God, the Revealer of this Most Great Announcement, We have removed from the Holy Scriptures and Tablets the law prescribing the destruction of books."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 25)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Beware lest ye shed the blood of any one. Unsheathe the sword of your tongue from the scabbard of utterance, for therewith ye can conquer the citadels of men's hearts. We have abolished the law to wage holy war against each other. God's mercy hath, verily, encompassed all created things, if ye do but understand."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 24)

Here are, as I said, just a few of the numerous laws that have been revealed for the Bahá'í era. For those who are interested there is a whole book of laws that Bahá'u'lláh has revealed, The Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the book of the laws for The Bahá'í Faith. Get a copy and read it, it gives one an inkling of things to come in the future in a world of peace and security.

Laws of God.

243. Laws of God. **Bahá'í Faith: "Each of the divine religions embodies two kinds of ordinances. (Laws). The first is those which concern spiritual susceptibilities, the development of moral principles and the quickening of the conscience of man. These are essential or fundamental, one and the same in all religions, changeless and eternal -- reality not subject to transformation."**

"The second kind of ordinances in the divine religions are those which relate to the material affairs of humankind. These are the material or accidental laws which are subject to change in each day of manifestation, according to exigencies of the time, For instance, in the day of Moses ten commandments in regard to murder were revealed by Him. These commandments were in accordance with the requirements of that day and time. Other laws embodying drastic punishments were enacted by Moses -- an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. The penalty for theft was amputation of the hand. These laws and penalties were applicable to the degree of the Israelitish people of that period, who dwelt in the wilderness and desert under conditions where severity was necessary and justifiable. But in the time of Jesus Christ this kind of law was not expedient; therefore, Christ abrogated and superseded the commands of Moses."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

This is one of the reasons the various religions of the world appear to disagree. Different material laws were needed at different times so the material laws appear to differ from one religion to another.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O ye peoples of the world! Know assuredly that My commandments are the lamps of My loving providence among My servants, and the keys of My mercy for My creatures. Thus hath it been sent down from the heaven of the Will of your Lord, the Lord of**

Revelation. Were any man to taste the sweetness of the words which the lips of the All-Merciful have willed to utter, he would, though the treasures of the earth be in his possession, renounce them one and all, that he might vindicate the truth of even one of His commandments, shining above the Dayspring of His bountiful care and loving-kindness."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 19)

The laws of God are brought to the earth by God's messengers to better the world of mankind and make it easier for men to interact with one another. The Ten Commandments, some of the most fundamental laws found in the bible are as such material laws. These laws are brought here to help mankind evolve, to help man develop civilization and to help men to get along one with another. Judaism: Exodus 20:2 "I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Exodus 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O my people,' said He, 'Worship God, ye have none other God beside Him."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 9)

Some of the material laws found in the bible are also found in the Bahá'í Faith:

BAHA'I FAITH: "O God, my God! I bear witness to Thy unity and Thy oneness, and that Thou art God, and that there is none other God but Thee. Thou hast everlastingly been sanctified above the mention of any one but Thee and the praise of all else except Thyself, and Thou wilt everlastingly continue to be the same as Thou wast from the beginning and hast ever been."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 43)

JUDAISM: Exodus 20:4 "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:" Exodus 20:5 "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God....."

BAHA'I FAITH: "See ye not this Sun that shineth in refulgent splendour above the All-Glorious Horizon? For how long will ye worship the idols of your evil passions? Forsake your vain imaginings, and turn yourselves unto God, your Everlasting Lord."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 33)

JUDAISM: Exodus 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Speaking against God means to keep far from Him -- to deny Him -- this is the same as cursing Him."

(Compilations, Baha'i Prayers 9, p. 50)

JUDAISM: Exodus 20:8 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." Exodus 20:9 "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:" Exodus 20:10 "But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:" Exodus 20:11 "For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

Christ changed the law of the Sabbath day when he started healing on the Sabbath day. Christianity: Matthew 12:11 "And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep,

and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?" Matthew 12:12 "How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days." Matthew 12:8 "For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day."

 **JUDAISM: Exodus 20:12 "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O My people! Show honour to your parents and pay homage to them. This will cause blessings to descend upon you from the clouds of the bounty of your Lord, the Exalted, the Great."**

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 229)

 **JUDAISM: Exodus 20:13 "Thou shalt not kill."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Ye have been forbidden to commit murder or adultery, or to engage in backbiting or calumny; shun ye, then, what hath been prohibited in the holy Books and Tablets."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 26)

 **JUDAISM: Exodus 20:14 "Thou shalt not commit adultery."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God hath imposed a fine on every adulterer and adulteress, to be paid to the House of Justice: nine mithqals of gold, to be doubled if they should repeat the offence. Such is the penalty which He Who is the Lord of Names hath assigned them in this world; and in the world to come He hath ordained for them a humiliating torment."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 37)

 **JUDAISM: Exodus 20:15 "Thou shalt not steal."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Exile and imprisonment are decreed for the thief, and, on the third offence, place ye a mark upon his brow so that, thus identified, he may not be accepted in the cities of God and His countries."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 35)

 **JUDAISM: Exodus 20:16 "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The individual must be educated to such a high degree that he would rather have his throat cut than tell a lie, and would think it easier to be slashed with a sword or pierced with a spear than to utter calumny....."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 136)

 **JUDAISM: Exodus 20:17 "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O QUINTESSENCE OF PASSION! Put away all covetousness and seek contentment; for the covetous hath ever been deprived, and the contented hath ever been loved and praised."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

The next set of laws are spiritual in nature and concern the development of moral principles and the quickening of the conscience of man. These laws are fundamental and are found in all the religions of God.

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Holy of Holies is the essence of the Law of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Christ, Muhammad, the Báb, and Bahá'u'lláh, and which lasts and is established in all the prophetic cycles. It will never be abrogated, for it is spiritual and not material truth; it is faith, knowledge, certitude, justice, piety, righteousness, trustworthiness, love of God, benevolence, purity, detachment, humility, meekness, patience and constancy. It shows mercy to the poor, defends the oppressed, gives to the wretched and uplifts the fallen."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 47)

As Abdu'l-Baha indicated these laws are eternal and are found in all of God's great religions including Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith. I have searched through the bible and the Bahá'í Writings to demonstrate this truth to the reader. Some of these laws are not mentioned by name in the bible but the spirit and fundamental teachings of these laws are the same.

a. Faith: Judaism: Habakkuk 2:4 "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith." Christianity: Mark 11:22 "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God." Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith," Romans 1:17 "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." 1 Timothy 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Arise and, armed with the power of faith, shatter to pieces the gods of your vain imaginings,"

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 217)

b. Knowledge: Judaism: Numbers 24:16 "He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High," Hosea

6:6 “For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.” ✝ Christianity: Colossians 1:10 “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;”

BAHA’I FAITH: “The beginning of all things is the knowledge of God, and the end of all things is strict observance of whatsoever hath been sent down from the empyrean of the Divine Will that pervadeth all that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth.”

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 5)

c. Certitude:

✡ Judaism: 2 Chronicles 20:20 “Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.” ✝ Christianity: John 11:40 “Jesus saith unto her, ‘Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, (with certainty) thou shouldest see the glory of God?” John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.” Acts 15:11 “But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved,”

BAHA’I FAITH: “Blessed are they who, on the wings of certitude, have flown in the heavens which the Pen of thy Lord, the All-Merciful, hath spread.”

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 242)

d. Justice:

✡ Judaism: Psalms 82:3 “Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.” Psalms 89:14 “Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.” Proverbs 21:3 “To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.” Isaiah 56:1 “Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice:” ✝ Christianity: Matthew 12:18 “Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall

shew judgment....” John 7:24 “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “As the body of man needeth a garment to clothe it, so the body of mankind must needs be adorned with the mantle of justice and wisdom.”**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 81)

e. Piety: Judaism: 4:3 “The LORD hath set apart him that is godly (pious) for himself.” Christianity: 1 Timothy 5:4 “But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.” 1 Corinthians 7:34 “Be holy (pious) both in body and in spirit.” 27:1 Corinthians Dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness, (perfecting piety) in the fear of God.” Titus 2:10 “Shewing all good fidelity.” Pious behaviour. 1 Peter 3:8 “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “This Wronged One enjoineth on you honesty and piety.”**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 22)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Titus 2:10 “Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.” 2 Peter 1:5 “.....add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;” 2 Peter 1:6 “And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;” 2 Peter 1:7 “And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.”**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Cling ye to the hem of virtue, and hold fast to the cord of trustworthiness and piety.”**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 29)

f. Righteousness:

Judaism: 1 Samuel 26:23 "The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness:" Psalms 5:8 "Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness." Psalms 112:4 "Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous." Proverbs 10:2 "Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Should we not, rather, take the pathway of the righteous, and follow in the footsteps of those great ones gone before?"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 220)

JUDAISM: Proverbs 12:28 "In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death." Isaiah 32:17 "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." Christianity: Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The second pathway is that of religion, the road of the divine Kingdom. It involves the acquisition of praiseworthy attributes, heavenly illumination and righteous actions in the world of humanity."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 70)

CHRISTIANITY: 1Timothy 6:11 ".....follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." Revelations 22:11 ".....he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

BAHA'I FAITH: "It behoveth the loved ones of the Lord to be the signs and tokens of His universal mercy and the embodiments of His own excelling grace. Like the sun, let them cast their rays upon garden and rubbish heap alike, and even as clouds in spring, let them shed down their rain upon flower and thorn. Let them seek but love and faithfulness, let them not follow the ways of unkindness, let their talk be confined to the secrets of friendship and of peace. Such are the attributes of the righteous, such is the distinguishing mark of those who serve His Threshold."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 257)

g. Trustworthiness:

Judaism: Deuteronomy 23:23 "That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform;" Numbers 32:24 "do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth." Christianity: John 10:37 "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not." James 2:12 "So speak ye, and so do," 1Timothy 2: 2 ".....lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." Titus 2:10 "Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things." 1 Chronicles 16:27 "Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place." Judaism: Isaiah 43:4 "Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee:" Leviticus 19:11 "Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another." Christianity: Romans 9:1 "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost," Colossians 3:9 "Lie not one to another....." James 3:14 "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth."

BAHA'I FAITH: "When we speak let our speech be an outward evidence of the inner light, for we must speak the truth, otherwise we shall not act wisely."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 103)

h. Love of God: **Judaism: Deuteronomy 6:5 "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Joshua 22:5 "But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul." Christianity: Matthew 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:38 "This is the first and great commandment." Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."**

BAHA'I FAITH: "day by day ye will love God in ever greater measure, and become more tightly bound to the Beauty that abideth forever, to Him Who is the Light of the world."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 202)

i. Benevolence: **Judaism: Proverbs 19:22 "The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar." Christianity: Colossians 3:12 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;" 2 Peter 1:7 "And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." 2 Peter 1:8 "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." Psalms 112:4 "Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous." Christianity: 1 Peter 3:8 "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:" Jude 1:22 "And of some have compassion, making a difference:"**

BAHA'I FAITH: "Show forbearance and benevolence and love to one another. Should any one among you be incapable of grasping a certain truth, or be striving to comprehend it, show forth, when conversing

with him, a spirit of extreme kindliness and good-will. Help him to see and recognize the truth, without esteeming yourself to be, in the least, superior to him, or to be possessed of greater endowments."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 8)

j. Purity: Judaism: Psalms 18:26 "With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure;" Christianity: 1 Timothy 4:12 "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The beloved of God must each be the essence of purity and holiness;"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 365)

k. Detachment: Judaism: Psalms 49:6 "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;" Psalms 49:7 "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:" Christianity: Matthew 19:21 "Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." Matthew 19:22 "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Cast away that which ye possess, and, on the wings of detachment, soar beyond all created things."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 139)

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 12:33 "Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth." Luke 12:34 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Blessed are they that have soared on the wings of detachment and attained the station which, as ordained by God, overshadoweth the entire creation, whom neither the vain imaginations of the learned, nor the multitude of the hosts of the earth have succeeded in deflecting from His Cause."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 34)

l. Humility:

Judaism: Proverbs 15:33 "The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility." Proverbs 22:4 "By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life." Christianity: Acts 20:19 "Serving the Lord with all humility of mind," 1 Peter 5:5 "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Humility exalteth man to the heaven of glory and power, whilst pride abaseth him to the depths of wretchedness and degradation."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 29)

m. Meekness:

Judaism: Zephaniah 2:3 "Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness:" Christianity: Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith," Galatians 5:23 "Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 93)

CHRISTIANITY: Colossians 3:12 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;" 1 Timothy 6:11 "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The beloved of God must each be the essence of purity and holiness; so may they be known by their purity, freedom and meekness in every land;"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 365)

n. Patience:

Judaism: Ecclesiastes 7:8 "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." Christianity: Luke 22:19 "In your patience possess ye your souls." 1 Timothy 6:11 "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." Hebrews 10:36 "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." James 5:7 "Be patient therefore, brethren,"

BAHA'I FAITH: "The virtues and attributes pertaining unto God are all evident and manifest, and have been mentioned and described in all the heavenly Books. Among them are trustworthiness, truthfulness, purity of heart while communing with God, forbearance, resignation to whatever the Almighty hath decreed, contentment with the things His Will hath provided, patience, nay, thankfulness in the midst of tribulation, and complete reliance, in all circumstances, upon Him. These rank, according to the estimate of God, among the highest and most laudable of all acts. All other acts are, and will ever remain, secondary and subordinate unto them...."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 290)

o. Constancy:

Judaism: 1 Chronicles 28:7 "Moreover I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he be constant to do my commandments and

my judgments, as at this day.” Christianity: Titus 3:8 “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”

BAHA’I FAITH: “Today is the day for steadfastness and constancy. Blessed are they that stand firm and immovable as the rock, and brave the storm and stress of this tempestuous hour.”

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 349)

They don’t follow the whole law.

244. They don’t follow the whole law only that which suits them, which leads to the corruption of the religion of God and the damnation of those who follow them: Mankind has a knack for picking out, of religion, that which suits him to follow and disregarding the rest. He rationalizes to himself if I do this and no one sees me, or it is such a little thing, it won’t cause harm to anyone; but to be a true adherent to the word of God, the word of God comes as a whole and not just bits and pieces that we can pick and choose what we like and ignore the rest. When God makes something a law, it is for a very good reason, and it usually relates to our own spiritual health and well-being, or not causing harm or hardship on someone else. Christianity: Matthew 23:23 “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.” Matthew 23:1 “Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples,” 23:2 “Saying The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:” 23:3 “All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.” Matthew 15:14 “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” Judaism: Isaiah 24:5 “The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants

thereof; because they have transgressed (contravened) the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." 1 Esdras 49. "The governors also of the people and of the priests did many things against the laws, and passed all the pollutions of all nations, and defiled the temple of the Lord, which was sanctified in Jerusalem." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)

CHRISTIANITY: Galatians: 3:10 "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book." James: 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, (pick and choose what they wish to believe and follow, while ignoring the rest), (they) he is guilty of (disobeying) all (of The Holy Word of God)." Therefore, "so speak ye, and so do, (we are absolutely not supposed to separate out one word or one sentence from His Holy word, and ignore what the rest of The Holy Book is actually saying to us and teaching us; if we do this we are truly transgressors)!" Luke: 6:39 "Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?" Judaism: Jeremiah: 48:10 "Cursed be he that doeth the work of The LORD deceitfully." Lamentations: 3:35 "To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High," 3:36 "to subvert a man, The LORD approveth not." Deuteronomy: 27:26 "Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words." 24:17 "Thou shalt not pervert the judgment (the word), Malachi: 2:7 "For, ye have not kept My ways, but have been partial in the law (picked and chosen what you want to believe in, while ignoring the rest of God's Holy Word)." So, Psalms: 28:9 "Whom shall He (God) teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine?" 28:10 "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little;" 27:18 For, "cursed be he that maketh the blind to wander out of the way (another name for God's true teachings). 27:19 So, "cursed be he that perverteth the judgment: (God's Holy Word and Teachings)." Isaiah: 9:16 "For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed." (King James Bible)

BAHA'I FAITH: "We must never take one sentence in the Teachings and isolate it from the rest." (Shoghi Effendi, The Unfolding Destiny of the British Baha'i Community, p. 457) "Grant, O my God, that I may not

be reckoned among those whose ears are deaf, whose eyes are blind, whose tongues are speechless and whose hearts have failed to comprehend." The Bab: (The Dawn-Breakers, p. 249 and The Unfolding Destiny of the British Baha'i Community, p. 457 and Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 215) ✸ BAHA'I FAITH: "To no one is given the right to interpret His (God's) words, to add even a dot, or to take one away." (Adib Taherzadeh, The Covenant of Baha'u'llah, p. 101) "To no one is given the right to tamper with the word of God, or to change the meaning. The word of God is sacred and should be treated as such." "In The Bible and The Bahá'í Faith we are warned not to change the word in order to safe guard the sacred texts for the benefit of all mankind, so future generations will be able to study the writings with confidence in the validity of the scriptures." (Unfolding Destiny of the British Baha'i Community, p. 457) So, "We must never take one sentence in the Teachings and isolate it from the rest..." (Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 403) for our own benefit or interpretation, while ignoring what the rest of the teachings do in fact teach and say. People of religion run into this occurrence from other people of religion all of the time. People will take one sentence or a few sentences, in their religious books, and say this is what this story means, or this is what this book is about or what the book is actually saying; but I find, much of the time, when I actually read more verses and take a closer look into the book, that the book is actually saying something completely and totally different, and the story is actually about something entirely different. You cannot just read one sentence or two, or a few sentences, without actually making sure that this is truly what the real, actual thoughts are behind the sentences. ✸ "Beware lest anyone falsely interpret these words." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 448) For again, "we must never take one sentence in the Teachings and isolate it from the rest." In-deed, "shall blind imitations of ancestral forms (of belief) and theological interpretations continue to guide and control the religious life and spiritual development of humanity today? Shall man gifted with the power of reason unthinkingly follow and adhere to dogma, creeds and hereditary beliefs which will not bear the analysis of reason in this century of effulgent reality? Unquestionably this will not satisfy men of science, for when they find premise or conclusion contrary to

present standards of proof and without real foundation, they reject that which has been formerly accepted as standard and correct and move forward from new foundations." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 225) (Baha'i Faith, The Covenant of Baha'u'llah, p. 101, Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 403 and Bahá'í World Faith p. 225 and Shoghi Effendi, The Unfolding Destiny of the British Baha'i Community, p. 457))

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Those who dwelt upon the earth, means the other nations and races, such as the peoples of Europe and distant Asia who, when they saw that the character of Islam was entirely changed, the Law of God forsaken -- that virtues, zeal and honor had departed from among them, and that their qualities were changed – became happy, and rejoiced that corruption of morals had infected the people of Islam, and that they would in consequence be overcome by other nations."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 53)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In its primitive days, whilst they still adhered to the precepts associated with the name of their Prophet, the Lord of mankind, their career was marked by an unbroken chain of victories and triumphs. As they gradually strayed from the path of their Ideal Leader and Master, as they turned away from the Light of God and corrupted the principle of His Divine unity, and as they increasingly centered their attention upon them who were only the revealers of the potency of His Word, their power was turned into weakness, their glory into shame, their courage into fear. Thou dost witness to what a pass they have come. Behold, how they have joined partners with Him Who is the Focal-Point of Divine unity. Behold how their evil doings have hindered them from recognizing, in the Day of Resurrection, the Word of Truth, exalted be His glory. We cherish the hope that this people will henceforth shield themselves from vain hopes and idle fancies, and will attain to a true understanding of the meaning of Divine unity."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 69)

The letter of the word by itself can lead to death.

245. <u>The letter of the word by itself can lead to death, spiritually, but the inspired word of God can also lead to spiritual life</u>. The letter of the word of God without the influence of spiritual insight can lead to scriptural ignorance of God's teachings and death, but we are not talking about death of the physical body, we are talking about the death of the spirit in man. <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Deuteronomy</u> 30:15 "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;" <u>Deuteronomy</u> 29:4 "Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day."

How many times has a prophet of God been sent to this earth and the people and the religious leaders of his time held onto the literal interpretation of the letter of the word they are familiar with, and failed to recognize God's holy prophet because he came with the spirit of God in his teachings?

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Had they but fixed their gaze upon the testimony of God itself, had they refused to follow in the footsteps of the abject and foolish among their leaders and divines, they would doubtless have attained to the repository of guidance and the treasury of virtue, and quaffed from the crystal waters of life eternal in the city of the All-Merciful."

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 10)

<u>CHRISTIANITY</u>: <u>John</u> 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." <u>John</u> 5:47 "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" The people in Christ's time held onto the literal interpretation of the words of Moses and the other prophets of the Old Testament and not only failed to recognize

the spiritual authority of Jesus Christ when he came to them, but they also had Jesus, The Son of God, put to death for their lack of understanding.

So again I say, when men hold on strictly to the word of God without digging deeper into the writings of God looking for the spiritual content of the word, the letter of the word they are holding onto can leave the spirit of those men spiritually dead.

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Corinthians 3:6 "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." Paul states that the letter killeth, or the word alone can harm the soul of man by causing him to fail to see the true light of the word which enlightens the spirit and causes the soul to be alive in God. This is hinted at numerous times in the bible when Jesus makes statements like let the dead bury the dead:**  **Christianity: Matthew 8:22 "But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead." God does not consider us to even be alive when our spirits are filled with darkness and worldly thoughts. Luke 15:24 "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." 1 Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth."**

So, it seems apparent that if we only think worldly thoughts holding onto the pleasures of this earthly life and only hold on to the literal letter of the word without considering the inner spiritual meaning, God and His manifestations or messengers consider us to be dead to the spiritual world, even though we are living and breathing in this world; we are dead and spiritually blind to God.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Many divine messengers have appeared in Persia, the land of many sects. One of these sects occupies itself with ceremonies and forms and considers relations with other sects quite impossible. Its followers blindly accept the sacred writings. Another sect among the Shuhites (this word seems to be misspelled nor do I find it anymore in the Bahá'í or Islamic writings the word Shiites seems to be the word that was supposed to be used here) attempts**

religious research and weighs theological questions and metaphysics and the Sufis have their own special dogmas. These groups spend their lives in useless arguments and wrangles and are continually at war with one another."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 62)

So, the letter of the literal word without spiritual insight on the part of man, as I said, leads to the spiritual death and spiritual blindness in man, but if this is the case then conversely with spiritual insight on the part of man, the word of God should lead to spiritual life; and I found by doing some research in the bible and the Bahá'í Writings that this was the case. The word of God gives life to the soul of those who are spiritually receptive:

The word of God giveth life to man.

The word of God giveth life to man. **Judaism: Deuteronomy 8:3 "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live." Psalms 12:6 "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Christianity: Luke 4:4 "And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."**

BAHA'I FAITH: "Truth is the Word of God which gives life to humanity."

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 494)

He is The Living God.

246. He is The Living God. In the Writings of God's messengers in the bible and in the Bahá'í Faith we run into the term The Living God or God is alive numerous times. To demonstrate this, here are just a few of those citations to ponder: ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 5:26 "For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the Living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?" Joshua 3:10 "And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the Living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites." 1 Samuel 17:26 "And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the Living God?" Psalms 84:2 "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the Living God." Jeremiah 10:10 "But the LORD is the true God, He is the Living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide His indignation." Jeremiah 46:18 "As I live, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts," Ezekiel 20:3 "As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you." Hosea 1:10 "Ye are the sons of the Living God."

The term living God, as it is used here, seems to denote the presence of a living breathing God, but this god is not seen with the naked eye. ✝ Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit." His presence is felt and He is known by His signs He reveals unto man but he is not a physical entity. ✡ Judaism: Joshua 4:6 "That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones?" Joshua 4:7 "Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off:" This is one of the signs God made with man to demonstrate His presence to man and His authority. It is like the parting of the Red Sea or the cloud and pillar of fire that He used to guide the children of

Israel in their exodus to freedom. God uses signs and events in nature sometimes altering nature to demonstrate His presence to man.

Statements like these telling us that God is a living soul and He is in control of everything are found all throughout the writings of the Old Testament, and the Bahá'í Writings.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Having recognized thy powerlessness to attain to an adequate understanding of that Reality which abideth within thee, thou wilt readily admit the futility of such efforts as may be attempted by thee, or by any of the created things, to fathom the mystery of the Living God, the Day Star of unfading glory, the Ancient of everlasting days."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 165)

Just as the terms Living God or as God lives are found throughout the Old Testament and the Bahá'í Writings we also find, as it should be, statements like these used in the New Testament: Christianity: Matthew 16:16 "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Matthew 26:63 "But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the Living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God." John 6:69 "And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the Living God." Acts 14:15 "And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the Living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:" Romans 14:11 "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." 1 Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the Living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." 1 Thessalonians 1:9 "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Consider the days of Jesus, when there was only a small body of people, and then observe the great tree which grew from that seed and what an abundant fruit it produced. This is greater than that, forasmuch as it is the calling of the Lord of Hosts and the voice of the trumpet of the living God; it is the summons unto the harmony and unison of the world, and it is the banner of faithfulness, trustworthiness and friendship among the different nations and sects of the universe; it is the light of the Sun of Truth and the spirituality of the Majestic One. Verily this great cycle will encompass all the horizons and ultimately all the nations will gather together under this standard."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 410)

Clearly the writings of the bible and the Bahá'í Faith talk about a God that is alive, a living God, but what do these writings mean by the phrase living God or as God lives since God has no living physical body?

The term living God, as it is used in the bible and the Bahá'í Faith, is a term used to denote a living spiritual God and not a God of flesh and blood we can see and touch. John tells us: Christianity: John 1:18 "No man hath seen God at any time;" No man has seen God, John doesn't leave this open to question he states no man has seen Him at any time, but he doesn't just say this once. As if to make sure that we don't misinterpret him, John states this again in another part of the bible. 1 John 4:12 "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." It's as if John wants to make sure his massage got across to us, beyond any doubt. No one has, in reality, seen God; ever! So, the big question that really comes to mind is, where does that leave us with all those people in the bible who state they have seen God? Jacob tells us that he seen God face to face, Judaism: Genesis 32:30 "for I have seen God face to face," but then he later states Genesis 33:10 "therefore I have seen Thy face, as though I had seen the face of God," he states he has seen a face as though he had seen the face of God. Abraham tells us that the Lord appeared to him, Genesis 18:1 "And the LORD appeared unto

him in the plains of Mamre:" and he appeared with two men, Genesis 18:2 "And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him:" but that does not necessarily make it The Lord God he is talking about for God tells Moses that no man can see His face and live. Exodus 33:20 "And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." So, the question that comes to mind is who is the Lord figure that Abraham was talking to because Abraham was still alive after his encounter with the Lord? And again I must reiterate what John states: ✝ Christianity: 1 John 4:12 "No man hath seen God at any time." If no man has seen God at any time who were these people in the bible talking to?

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh is not the Intermediary between other Manifestations and God. Each has His own relation to the Primal Source. But in the sense that Bahá'u'lláh is the greatest Manifestation to yet appear, the One Who consummates the Revelation of Moses. He was the One Moses conversed with in the Burning Bush. In other words Bahá'u'lláh identifies the Glory of God-Head on that occasion with Himself."

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 471)

Who have these people of the bible been talking to? The image of Bahá'u'lláh is one possibility of who these people were talking to. He is the one who was the God-head who conversed with Moses in the burning bush. But then again, these stories could all be symbolic for all we know. But one thing we really do know is; that God is a spirit. Christ tells us this in John: ✝ Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." A spirit is a nonphysical entity not someone you could talk to or sit down and dine with. Statements like these found in the bible must be purely metaphorical for other interpretations and not to be taken as literal events otherwise how could these statements from Moses and Christ, two of the greatest of God's Holy Manifestations, be true? Christ said no one has ever seen God and Moses said to see the face of God was to die if you were human. Now some might argue that Abraham was a messenger from God and so he was exempt from this statement from

Moses that human flesh could not see the face and glory of God and live afterward, but I must point out that Moses was one of God's greatest Holy Manifestations and he was only allowed to see God's later parts or he wouldn't have lived. Read Exodus 33:17 thru 23 if you want to know the whole story, but suffices to say Moses was not allowed to see the face of God. And who is to say this story was literal? God talks out of whirling winds and flames and thundering, does this the sound like a form of corporeal existence.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To every discerning and illumined heart it is evident that God, the unknowable Essence, the divine Being, is immensely exalted beyond every human attribute, such as corporeal existence, ascent and descent, egress and regress. Far be it from His glory that human tongue should adequately recount His praise, or that human heart comprehend His fathomless mystery. He is and hath ever been veiled in the ancient eternity of His Essence, and will remain in His Reality everlastingly hidden from the sight of men. "No vision taketh in Him, but He taketh in all vision; He is the Subtile, the All-Perceiving. No tie of direct intercourse can possibly bind Him to His creatures. He standeth exalted beyond and above all separation and union, all proximity and remoteness. No sign can indicate His presence or His absence; inasmuch as by a word of His command all that are in heaven and on earth have come to exist, and by His wish, which is the Primal Will itself, all have stepped out of utter nothingness into the realm of being, the world of the visible."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 97)

So, what does all of this tells us? God is a living entity separate from corporeal existence, but very much a living spirit that is beyond human understanding or comprehension. This is where the term having faith applies to man. We say God is alive, but as a human you must have personal faith that he does exist and that there is something out there besides nothingness. We must believe that He exists and that He is going to do what He says He is going to do; this is where faith comes in! Now we can follow the progressive revelation of the prophets and how they all talk about one another and prophesy

the coming and existence of one another but that goes into another book I am writing about Progressive Revelation, and I will address this subject in detail then. What I will say about this, is that I find a pattern within the history of the manifestations themselves and their teachings that leads me to believe that there is a valid proof of the existence of God, if we look for it, but that is for a later time. (For more information on the subject see progressive revelation in this work, and you will find a brief account on the nature of progressive revelation).

Doing God's will, living the life, is considered living while, living only for the things of this life, is considered death.

247. Doing God's will, living the life, is considered living while the absence of God, living only for the things of this life, is considered death. ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 4:4 "But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day." In the writings of God's messengers, Bahá'í, Christian or otherwise, living the life God has out lined for us is considered being alive and living for Him, while living outside of His law in considered living the life of the animal, thinking only of material pleasures, which is considered being spiritually dead. ✝ Christianity: 1 Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die:" Living for material pleasure leads humanity to a kind of spiritual death, because if man is strictly focused on the pleasures of this world and on the flesh he is not thinking about God or the development of his soul; he is thinking about mortal gain and what he can get out of this physical life. He is not thinking about how to become a better more enlightened soul he is thinking about how to acquire more material goods and what his status is in this world. This is not the way to the development of the soul in man it is the way to spiritual deprivation.

Though, you can't exist in this life without some spiritual development occurring, everything dealing with the soul is moving in

slow motion; which, according to the books of God, is a condition of man being unenlightened, and this, according to the writings of God's holy prophets, is a form of spiritual death. This explanation is explained more thoroughly in the Bahá'í Writings:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Physical life, in comparison with eternal life in the Kingdom, is considered as death. So Christ called the physical life death, and said: 'Let the dead bury their dead.' Though those souls possessed physical life, yet in His eyes that life was death."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 126)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 8:22 "But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead." Which, is another way of saying let the unenlightened souls, which are those lacking spiritual development, bury the souls of those that have passed on out of this life. Conversely if living for the material world leads to spiritual death, then focusing your attention on the writings of God, following His teachings and doing the things the writings tell you to do is the way that leads to spiritual life for the soul. This is, of course, inferred in the bible and, in a later time, is explained in the Bahá'í Writings:** **Judaism: Leviticus 18:5 "Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD." Deuteronomy 4:1 "Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live....." Deuteronomy 30:15 "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil," Deuteronomy 30:16 "In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live,"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Strive therefore, with heart and soul, to follow the precepts of the Blessed Perfection, and rest assured that if ye succeed in living the life he marks out for you, Eternal Life and everlasting joy in the Heavenly Kingdom will be yours, and celestial sustenance will be sent to strengthen you all your days."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 113)

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" Deuteronomy 30:20 "That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for He is thy life....." Proverbs 11:19 "As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death." Proverbs 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." Proverbs 13:14 "The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." Proverbs 14:27 "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." Proverbs 19:23 "The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil." Proverbs 21:21 "He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whatever is the cause of harmony, attraction and union among men is the life of the world of humanity, and whatever is the cause of difference, of repulsion and of separation is the cause of the death of mankind."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 294)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 22:4 "By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life." Ecclesiastes 7:12 "For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it."**  **Christianity: Matthew 7:14 "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matthew 16:25 "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." Luke 12:23 "The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment." John 1:4 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh**

profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We observe that every movement which establishes unity and amity brings in its train life and every cause which promotes differences and enmity carries death in its wake."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 175)

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 1:12 "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." 1 John 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." 1 John 5:12 "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."**  **Judaism: Deuteronomy 6:24 "And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is at this day." Deuteronomy 5:33 "Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live," Psalms 22:29 "All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before Him: and none can keep alive his own soul." Ezekiel 18:26 "When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die." Ezekiel 18:27 "Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive." Psalms 33:18 "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;" Psalms 33:19 "To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive....."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is therefore clear that attraction, harmony, unity and Love, are the cause of life, whereas repulsion, discord, hatred and separation bring death."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 139)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 12:28 "In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death." Proverbs 13:14 "The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." Proverbs 4:4 "Let thine heart retain my words: keep My commandments, and live." Isaiah 38:16 "O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit: so wilt Thou recover me, and make me to live."**  **Christianity: Mark 8:36 "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:37 "Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Romans 6:11 "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:12 "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." Romans 6:13 "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "By the terms 'life' and 'death,' spoken of in the scriptures, is intended the life of faith and the death of unbelief. The generality of the people, owing to their failure to grasp the meaning of these words, rejected and despised the person of the Manifestation, deprived themselves of the light of His divine guidance, and refused to follow the example of that immortal Beauty."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 114)

Become a living sacrifice.

248. Become a living sacrifice. Christianity: Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Strengthen us that we may arise to help Thy Cause and offer ourselves as a living sacrifice in the pathway of guidance."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 315)

Living the life is living for God and part of what living for God is, is living by the laws (commands) and teachings He has sent down for us to observe.

249. Living the life is living for God and part of what living for God is, is living by the laws (commands) and teachings He has sent down for us to observe and follow the Holy Writings sent down to us in the writings of the various religions; which are clear on this point. To live for God one must observe His Holy Laws: Judaism: Deuteronomy 4:5 "Behold, I (Moses) have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so." Deuteronomy 4:6 "Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." Deuteronomy 6:17 "Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee." Deuteronomy 6:18 "And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee," Deuteronomy 30:16 "..... I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live," Proverbs 7:2 "Keep my commandments, and live." Proverbs 21:3 "To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice." Christianity: 1 John 2:4 "He that saith, I know

him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:5 "But, whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him." 1 John 2:6 "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." Romans 3:31 "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "You must endeavour always to live and act in direct obedience to the teachings and laws of Bahá'u'lláh, so that every individual may see in all the acts of your life that in word and indeed you are followers of the Blessed Perfection."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 167)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Cleave unto righteousness, O people of Baha! This, verily, is the commandment which this wronged One hath given unto you, and the first choice of His unrestrained Will for every one of you."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 93)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whenever My laws appear like the sun in the heaven of Mine utterance, they must be faithfully obeyed by all, though My decree be such as to cause the heaven of every religion to be cleft asunder. He doth what He pleaseth. He chooseth; and none may question His choice. Whatsoever He, the Well-Beloved, ordaineth, the same is, verily, beloved. To this He Who is the Lord of all creation beareth Me witness."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 332)

Don't become attached to this life and this world.

250. Don't become attached to this life and this world: And don't become confounded by the glitter and allure this world seems to

hold over less-spiritually inclined individuals. ✡ Judaism: Psalms 27:16 "A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked." Psalms 62:10 "If riches increase, set not your heart upon them." Psalms 119:72 "The law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." Proverbs 15:16 "Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith." Proverbs 28:20 "A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent." ✝ Christianity: Matthew 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon (money)." Matthew 6:25 "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" Matthew 6:26 "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" Matthew 6:19 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:" 6:20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:" 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Mark 4:19 "And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful." Luke 6:24 "But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation." Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Colossians 3:2 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." 1 John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." ✡ Judaism: Ezra 39. "Flee the shadow of this world, receive the joyfulness of your glory:" (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Esdras 2 (Ezra 4))

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Man must sever himself from the influences of the world of matter, from the world of nature and its laws; for the material world is the world of corruption and death. It is the world of evil and darkness, of animalism and ferocity, bloodthirstiness, ambition and avarice, of self-worship, egotism and passion; it is the world of nature."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 451)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know ye that by 'the world' is meant your unawareness of Him Who is your Maker, and your absorption in aught else but Him." "Whatsoever deterreth you, in this Day, from loving God is nothing but the world. Flee it, that ye may be numbered with the blest."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, pp. 275 and 276)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whatsoever deterreth you, in this Day, from loving God is nothing but the world. Flee it, that ye may be numbered with the blest. Should a man wish to adorn himself with the ornaments of the earth, to wear its apparels, or partake of the benefits it can bestow, no harm can befall him, if he alloweth nothing whatever to intervene between him and God, for God hath ordained every good thing, whether created in the heavens or in the earth, for such of His servants as truly believe in Him. Eat ye, O people, of the good things which God hath allowed you, and deprive not yourselves from His wondrous bounties. Render thanks and praise unto Him, and be of them that are truly thankful."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 276)

Locations dealing with the prophets return.

251. Locations dealing with the prophets return. When we stop to consider the return spoken of by Jesus in The New Testament we can't just consider when the second coming is to occur (see abomination of desolation for more information), we also need to consider the location of the second coming, as well. I know there are some people who believe Jesus Christ will come in the clouds with angels all around him and we don't have to worry about where he comes from; but for the people who don't take the bible literally, ✝ Christianity: Matthew 11:15 "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear," some of these people look at the bible not as a book that defies logic, but as a book of reason and symbolic nature. ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:" ✝ Christianity: John 6:63 ".....the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit." (See coming down on the clouds for more information.)

If we do research and look in the bible for the location of Christ's first coming we find it in the book of Micah: ✡ Judaism: Micah 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." This, as I stated, is the prophecy that deals with the location of Christ's first coming; Bethlehem. I found that if I took the time to look more closely in the book of Micah, I could also find the location of Christ's second coming as well: Micah 7:12 "In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria....." The Assyrian Empire at one time covered great territory during the time of Micah which gives us a general area to look in. The prophet Jeremiah writes Jeremiah 49:38 "And I will set my throne in Elam (Persia)." His throne will be in Persia. This gives us more of a location to look into for his return. The prophet Ezekiel writes Ezekiel 43:1 "Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east:" Ezekiel 43:2 "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory." Ezekiel 43:4 "And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east." Ezekiel tells us that he will come from the east of where he was at in his vision, which was in Israel, Ezekiel 40:2 "In the visions of God

brought he me into the land of Israel," The prophet Isaiah writes that not only will he will come from the east of Jerusalem, but that God will also give the nations before him and make him ruler over kings: Isaiah 41:2 "Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings." Jesus Christ himself even states in Matthew that he will come from the east: Christianity: Matthew 24:27 "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Elam (Persia), modern day Iran, is found to the east of Jerusalem in part of what use to be the old Assyrian Empire. Baha'u'llah whose name means The Glory of God or as Ezekiel writes The Glory of the God of Israel came from the east and Jeremiah states his throne well be in Elam (Persia) in what used to be part of the old Assyrian Empire thus fulfilling all seven of the prophecies from Micah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah and Jesus Christ.

Love is a main teaching found in the writings of God.

252. Love greatly matters in the religions of God. Love is a main teaching found in the writings of God. In essence, we are to live a life full of love. When Jesus came into this world he brought the concept of brotherly love. Love was a main theme of Christ's teachings. But what some people fail to realize is that Moses also taught that we should love one another: Judaism: Leviticus 19:18 "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." Love has remained an important factor in the Bahá'í Writings as well.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh taught, that Religion is the chief foundation of Love and Unity and the cause of Oneness."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 28)

 **JUDAISM: Leviticus 19:34 "But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He bids us worship in fearless loyalty to our own faith, but with ever stronger yearning after Union, Brotherhood, and Love; so turning ourselves in Spirit, and with our whole heart, that we may enter more into the mind of God, which is above class, above race, and beyond time."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 34)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"**  **Judaism: Deuteronomy 10:19 "Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." Proverbs 10:12 "Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins." Proverbs 15:17 "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "His mission was to change ignorant fanaticism into Universal love, to establish in the minds of His followers the basis of the unity of humanity and to bring about in practice the equality of mankind."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 37)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loveth at all times." Song of Solomon 8:6 "Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Love is light in whatsoever house it may shine and enmity is darkness in whatsoever abode it dwell."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 217)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 19:19 "Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." Mark 12:31 "And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "My hope is that through the zeal and ardour of the pure of heart, the darkness of hatred and difference will be entirely abolished, and the light of love and unity shall shine; this world shall become a new world; things material shall become the mirror of the divine; human hearts shall meet and embrace each other; the whole world become as a man's native country and the different races be counted as one race."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 38)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 6:35 "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest:" John 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." Romans 12:9 "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "They must purify their sight, and look upon mankind as the leaves, blossoms and fruits of the tree of creation, and must always be thinking of doing good to someone, of love, consideration, affection and assistance to somebody."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 215)

CHRISTIANITY: Romans 13:8 "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"

BAHA'I FAITH: "The divine purpose is that men should live in unity, concord and agreement and should love one another."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 245)

CHRISTIANITY: Galatians 6:10 "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." 1 Peter 1:22 "Truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Do not only say that Unity, Love and Brotherhood are good; you must work for their realization."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 60)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 3:11 "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." 1 John 4:7 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." 1 John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know thou of a certainty that Love is the secret of God's holy Dispensation, the manifestation of the All-Merciful, the fountain of spiritual outpourings. Love is heaven's kindly light, the Holy Spirit's eternal breath that vivifieth the human soul. Love is the cause of God's revelation unto man, the vital bond inherent, in accordance with the divine creation, in the realities of things. Love is the one means that ensureth true felicity both in this world and the next. Love is the light that guideth in darkness, the living link that uniteth God

with man, that assureth the progress of every illumined soul. Love is the most great law that ruleth this mighty and heavenly cycle, the unique power that bindeth together the divers elements of this material world, the supreme magnetic force that directeth the movements of the spheres in the celestial realms. Love revealeth with unfailing and limitless power the mysteries latent in the universe. Love is the spirit of life unto the adorned body of mankind, the establisher of true civilization in this mortal world, and the shedder of imperishable glory upon every high-aiming race and nation."

"O ye beloved of the Lord! Strive to become the manifestations of the love of God, the lamps of divine guidance shining amongst the kindreds of the earth with the light of love and concord."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 27)

Love one another, live in Brotherhood.

253. Love one another, live in Brotherhood with one another and love for the sake of love. Christianity is known the world over as the religion of brotherly love. Love and brotherhood are two of the most important and fundamental components of Christianity. Judaism: Leviticus 19:18 "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:34 "But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." Deuteronomy 10:19 "Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." This love of mankind is especially true in the Bahá'í Faith, love and brotherhood hold two extremely high positions in the ranks of the faith.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Equality and Brotherhood must be established among all members of mankind. This is according to Justice. The general rights of mankind must be guarded and preserved. All men

must be treated equally. This is inherent in the very nature of humanity."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 28

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 12:31 ".....Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself....."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Let us be united and love one another."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 61)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." Romans 13:8 "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." 1 Peter 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The divine purpose is that men should live in unity, concord and agreement and should love one another"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 245)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 3:11 "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." 1 John 3:23 "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He would kindle love in people's hearts, and make them kind to one another."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Memorials of the Faithful, p. 152)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 4:7 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." 1 John 4:8 "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Wherever you find the attributes of God love that person, whether he be of your family or of another."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 38)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 4:11 "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." 1 John 4:12 "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." 1 John 4:20 "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" 1 John 4:21 "And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." 2 John 1:5 "And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Do not only say that Unity, Love and Brotherhood are good; you must work for their realization."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 60)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 15:12 "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:17 "These things I command you, that ye love one another."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The divine purpose is that men should live in unity, concord and agreement and should love one another."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 245)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" Romans 13:10 "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We must look higher than all earthly thoughts; detach ourselves from every material idea, crave for the things of the spirit; fix our eyes on the everlasting bountiful Mercy of the Almighty, who will fill our souls with the gladness of joyful service to His command 'Love One Another'."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 39)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 13:1 "Let brotherly love continue." 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Hence associate with each other in amity; love one another; abandon the prejudices of race; forget forever this gloomy darkness of ignorance, for the Century of Light, the Sun of Reality, hath appeared. Now is the time for affiliation and now is the period for unification."**

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 281)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 2:17 "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." 1 Peter 3:8 "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The most important principle of divine philosophy is the oneness of the world of humanity, the unity of mankind, the bond conjoining east and west, the tie of love which blends human hearts."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 244)

Love God that His love may reach you.

254. Love God that His love may reach you: God's love is always near to us, but we are ever far from Him. We must return that love if its special benefits are to reach us. Judaism: Zechariah 1:3 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts." Malachi 3:7 Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.

BAHA'I FAITH: "O Son of Man! I loved thy creation, hence I created thee. Wherefore, do thou love Me, that I may name thy name and fill thy soul with the spirit of life."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 175)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 8:3 "But if any man love God, the same is known of Him." "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." In other words, from these three statements from the Old and New Testaments of the bible, we can discern that if we turn towards God with love in our hearts for our creator, God will turn to us and let His love for us, which is always near to us, flow through us, because if we are showing our love for Him His love for us can reach into our hearts. And this reciprocal sharing of love in our hearts and the sharing of love God has for us can also be discerned in the other religions of God as well:

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF BEING! Love Me, that I may love thee. If thou lovest Me not, My love can in no wise reach thee. Know this, O servant."

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

We are to have a deep love for God.

255. We are to have a deep love for God for He most certainly loves us. We as Christians and Bahá'ís are to love God with all our hearts, our souls and our minds that we may return the love God shows for us. Judaism: Deuteronomy 10:12 "And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul," Deuteronomy 6:5 "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Deuteronomy 11:1 "Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, alway."

BAHA'I FAITH: "If the mother be religious she will show her children how they should love God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 162)

JUDAISM: Joshua 22:5 "But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul." Christianity: Matthew 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:38 "This is the first and great commandment." Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Day by day ye will love God in ever greater measure, and become more tightly bound to the Beauty that abideth forever, to Him Who is the Light of the world."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 202)

God loved our creation, hence He created us.

256. God loved our creation, hence He created us.
Christianity: James 1:18 "Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF MAN! Veiled in My immemorial being and in the ancient eternity of My essence, I knew My love for thee; therefore I created thee, have engraved on thee Mine image and revealed to thee My beauty."

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 4:19 "We love Him, because He first loved us."

JUDAISM: Jeremiah 31:3 "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee (made thee)."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF MAN! I loved thy creation, hence I created thee. Wherefore, do thou love Me, that I may name thy name and fill thy soul with the spirit of life."

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

Know that God has great love for you.

257. Know that God has great love for you: Even if you don't know it or believe it God loves you. Christianity: Ephesians 2:4 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins." 1 John 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:" 1 John 3:16 "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he (Jesus) laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." 1 John 4:9 "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." 1 John 4:10 "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:11 "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Therefore we must give praise unto God, for it is the light of His bounty which has shone upon us through His love which is everlasting." "Therefore in the human world there is no greater power than the love of God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 90)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 4:16 "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:19 "We love Him, because He first loved us." 2 Corinthians 13:11 "Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." Romans 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us,"

BAHA'I FAITH: "The love of God gathered us all under the shade of one tent, beneath one banner."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 414)

JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 10:15 "The LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them." 7:13 "He will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee:" Zephaniah 3:17 "The LORD thy God in the midst of thee

is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in his love, He will joy over thee with singing."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We are witnesses of the tenderness and mercy of God upon every hand? All about us we behold manifestations of the love of God. If, therefore, God be loving, what should we do? We have nothing else to do but to emulate Him. Just as God loves all and is kind to all, so must we really love and be kind to everybody. We must consider none bad, none worthy of detestation, no one as an enemy. We must love all; nay, we must consider everyone as related to us, for all are the servants of one God. All are under the instructions of one Educator. We must strive day and night that love and amity may increase, that this bond of unity may be strengthened, that joy and happiness may more and more prevail, that in unity and solidarity all mankind may gather beneath the shadow of God, that people may turn to God for their sustenance, finding in Him the life that is everlasting. Thus may they be confirmed in the Kingdom of God and live forever through His grace and bounty."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 267)

Man's spirit or soul is created in God's image not the physical body of man.

258. Man's spirit or soul is created in God's image not the physical body of man. In the Bahá'í Faith we recognize that the souls of mankind are created in the image of God which is not the image of the physical body of man. God is of the spirit and far above the limitations of a physical body, Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit." This means that our souls are of the spirit as well, created in the image of our creator. Judaism: Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:" Genesis 1:27 "And God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All these sacred words show us that man is made in God's image: yet the Essence of God is incomprehensible to the human mind, for the finite understanding cannot be applied to this infinite Mystery."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 23)

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 5:1 "This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;" Genesis 5:2 "male and female created he them, and blessed them, and called their name Adam."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This, then, is our mission: that we who are made in the image of God should remember that all men are made in God's image."**

(Misc Baha'i, Appreciations of the Baha'i Faith, p. 27)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Here we find that Jesus makes the distinction between flesh and the spirit. He indicates that flesh is of the flesh of the body, while the spirit, that which is in God's image, is not of the body, but is a whole different entity unto itself, a spiritual entity. John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit." Jesus couldn't be any clearer, "God is a spirit" not an entity having a physical form we can see and observe, but a spiritual form. 2 Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Paul tells us the same thing that Jesus did, the Lord is spirit not physical, so man being created in God's image is spiritual also. 1 Corinthians 15:40 "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another." Paul, again, makes the clear distinction between the physical and the spiritual forms of man. He states we have a physical body or a terrestrial body and a celestial body or a spiritual body. Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather**

fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body." Matthew also makes the distinction between the physical body and the spiritual soul. We have ample evidence from Paul, Matthew and John that man has two forms, a physical form or the body that resembles that of the animal world and a spiritual soul created in the likeness and image of God.

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 15:44 "There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." Paul couldn't be any clearer on this, our physical body is different and separate from our spiritual body and he goes on further to say: 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say brethren that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;" The kingdom of God is not a physical place that our physical body can go to. Paul clearly makes the distinction that the physical body or flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God or go to heaven: For, Luke 17:20 "....The kingdom of God cometh not with observation" Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." The Kingdom of God is, as I said earlier, not a physical place that our physical body can just go to. Christ tells us heaven is not a place we can observe with our physical eyes. We can't say heaven is here or heaven is there, heaven is of the spiritual realm. So, if heaven is not a physical place it is our spiritual soul that goes to heaven when we pass on out of this mortal life and it is our spiritual or celestial body that is in God's image, because God is spirit and we are spirit because we are created in God's image.

Another argument we might want to think about? In the holy writings of the bible and the Bahá'í Faith we find that God is a God of perfection, indeed God is perfection: Judaism: Deuteronomy 18:13 "Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God." 2 Samuel 22:31 "As for God, his way is perfect;" Psalms 50:2 "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined."

BAHA'I FAITH: "God is the perfect one." (Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 149)

God is perfect, but the physical body of man is not perfect. The body of man gets sick, it grows old, it dies, but God is perfect "God is the perfect one." Since God is perfect and we are created in God's image, it is not possible that our physical body is created in God's image, because the physical body of man eventually grows old and decays. Ask yourself, how can something that grows old and decays be considered perfect? This can only mean that it is our soul, which is not subject to physical limitations, that doesn't grow old and decay, that doesn't go through physical pain and death, is that which is created in the image of the perfect God, and not the changing body, that is subject to the chances and changes of the world.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Only as the tree with its spreading boughs and its leaves is to be found in the seed from which it springs, is God's image to be found in the heart of the natural man. That heavenly image, before it can realize itself, needs to unfold and grow, and man's own will is assigned its share, in that task of development."

(George Townshend, The Heart of the Gospel, p. 22)

Messengers of God are the image of God on this earth, but they are also men.

259. Messengers of God are the image of God on this earth, but they are also men, according to the scriptures of God: God uses a messenger, a perfect man if you will, to get His message out to mankind, but he is still only a man, who has a special connection with God. Judaism: Exodus 11:3 "And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people." Deuteronomy 33:1 "And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death." 1 Chronicles 23:14 "Now concerning Moses the man of God, his sons were named of the tribe of Levi." 1 Chronicles 23:15 "The sons of Moses were, Gershom, and Eliezer."

CHRISTIANITY: Acts 2:22 "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:" Acts 13:38 "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:" Acts 13:39 "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." 1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" 1 John 4:12 "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." But He is not in the form of a man descended onto this earth; He is far, far above corporality. Judaism: Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

BAHA'I FAITH: "The splendors of the perfections, bounties, and attributes of God shine forth and radiate from the reality of the Perfect Man, that is to say, the Unique One, the universal Manifestation of God. Other beings receive only one ray, but the universal Manifestation is the mirror for this Sun, which appears and becomes manifest in it, with all its perfections, attributes, signs, and wonders."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section)

Soul of man not physical.

260. Soul of man is not physical. Man's spirit or soul is not physical, being created in God's image. (See Man's spirit created in Gods image, for more information). Judaism: Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:" Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him;" Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the

ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When we speak of the soul we mean the motive power of this physical body which lives under its entire control in accordance with its dictates. If the soul identifies itself with the material world it remains dark, for in the natural world there is corruption, aggression, struggles for existence, greed, darkness, transgression and vice. If the soul remains in this station and moves along these paths it will be the recipient of this darkness; but if it becomes the recipient of the graces of the world of mind, its darkness will be transformed into light, its tyranny into justice, its ignorance into wisdom, its aggression into loving kindness; until it reach the apex."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 120)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit." Since we are created in God's image our inner essence is spiritual also, because "God is a spirit," so are we.**  **Judaism: Proverbs 20:27 "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The progress and development of the soul, the joy and sorrow of the soul, are independent of the physical body."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 65)

 **JUDAISM: Ecclesiastes 3:21 "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?" Solomon helps define the spiritual separation made between the physical body, the beast, or the inner animal nature of physical man, from the higher spiritual nature of spiritual man. Job 32:8 "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding."**  **Christianity: John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Here Jesus**

makes the distinction between flesh or the physical body and the spirit that which is above and in control of the physical body. John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing:" He indicates that flesh of the body profiteth nothing or has no meaning in the eyes of our creator, while the spirit, that is in God's image, is our true life and essence.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The soul acts in the physical world with the help of the body. When it is freed from the body it acts without an intermediary."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 126)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body." Again, the distinction is made between the physical body of man and the higher nature of man his soul. Christ tells us to fear not them which can kill the physical body, because the physical body of man has no value in the eyes of God. He tells us to fear them that can destroy the soul, the higher nature of man, meaning fear the words of the deceiver who can lead man astray, thus leaving man entangled in the darkness of this natural world.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Man -- the true man -- is soul, not body; though physically man belongs to the animal kingdom, yet his soul lifts him above the rest of creation. Behold how the light of the sun illuminates the world of matter: even so doth the Divine Light shed its rays in the kingdom of the soul. The soul it is which makes the human creature a celestial entity!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 84)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 16:26 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" The material world holds no value to God when compared to the value of our soul. He wouldn't exchange**

one soul for all the world and He is letting us know it. Romans 8:8 "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." The flesh or they that are into the world cannot please God. The physical side of man is nothing in comparison to the value of our soul. Romans 8:9 "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Romans 8:10 "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." The spirit is life. This is where our true life resides in the eyes of God, not our physical body which is only flesh and considered dead to God when the spirit is lacking; our true life resides in our spiritual soul.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "People who know the truth say that the physical body of man is put into motion by the soul and in the same way man is the vital spark of this world."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 128)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 2:11 "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." 1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Even as in the world of dreams when all the physical faculties are in abeyance and the soul travels in all realms seeing, hearing, speaking, so when the physical body decomposes, the soul is not affected."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 128)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 4:4 "There is one body, and one Spirit," Paul makes the final distinction, there is one body of man and there is one spirit or the living soul of man. James 2:26 "the body without the spirit is dead…." James couldn't be any clearer. The body by itself is**

considered dead in the eyes of God, it is the spirit, that inner essence created in God's image, that brings life to man.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The soul has two main faculties. (a) As outer circumstances are communicated to the soul by the eyes, ears, and brain of a man, so does the soul communicate its desires and purposes through the brain to the hands and tongue of the physical body, thereby expressing itself. The spirit in the soul is the very essence of life. (b) The second faculty of the soul expresses itself in the world of vision, where the soul inhabited by the spirit has its being, and functions without the help of the material bodily senses. There, in the realm of vision, the soul sees without the help of the physical eye, hears without the aid of the physical ear, and travels without dependence upon physical motion. It is, therefore, clear that the spirit in the soul of man can function through the physical body by using the organs of the ordinary senses, and that it is able also to live and act without their aid in the world of vision. This proves without a doubt the superiority of the soul of man over his body, the superiority of spirit over matter."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 86)

Beautiful mansions of God.

261. Beautiful mansions of God: One of the teachings we find in the different religions of God is the promise of a wonderful home or a beautiful mansion that is waiting for us when we leave this life. This is of course symbolic because flesh cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, but the promise of a beautiful mansion is still promised to us anyway: Christianity: 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;" but we are still told there is a glorious place waiting for us in heaven if we act right. And interestingly enough this promise of a wonderful home or beautiful mansion that is waiting for us is promised to us throughout the various

religions of God: John 14:2 “In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”
Judaism: Enoch 1 “And after that I saw all the secrets of the heavens, and how the kingdom is divided, and how the actions of men are weighed in the balance. And there I saw the mansions of the elect and the mansions of the holy, and mine eyes saw there all the sinners being driven from thence which deny the name of the Lord of Spirits,” (Apocrypha, The Book of Enoch)


BAHA’I FAITH: “Only a few have as yet quaffed from this peerless, this soft-flowing grace of the Ancient King. These occupy the loftiest mansions of Paradise, and are firmly established upon the seats of authority.”

(Bahá’í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 107)


BAHA'I FAITH: “It is evident that the loftiest mansions in the Realm of Immortality have been ordained as the habitation of them that have truly believed in God and in His signs.”

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 141)


BAHA'I FAITH: “Whoso hath recognized the Day Spring of Divine guidance and entered His holy court hath drawn nigh unto God and attained His Presence, a Presence which is the real Paradise, and of which the loftiest mansions of heaven are but a symbol.”

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 70)

Martyrdom.

262. Martyrdom. The death of a martyr is most precious in the eyes of the Lord. Judaism: Psalms 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF MAN! Ponder and reflect. Is it thy wish to die upon thy bed, or to shed thy life-blood on the dust, a martyr in My path, and so become the manifestation of My command and the revealer of My light in the highest paradise? Judge thou aright, O servant!"

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." 1 Peter 4:1 "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;" Revelations 14:13 "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF MAN! By My beauty! To tinge thy hair with thy blood is greater in My sight than the creation of the universe and the light of both worlds. Strive then to attain this, O servant!"

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

Material world is not the world we should strive for, we should strive for the Kingdom of God.

263. Material world is not the world we should strive for, we should strive for the Kingdom of God, this is His wish and desire for us. Christianity: John 3:31 "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all." The world of the flesh is not the world we should be striving for. The physical world is with us, but for a short time, and then we pass out of this existence into

the life beyond, into a life of eternal happiness or a world of spiritual pain and suffering without parallel. The writings of Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith both warn us of the consequences of our actions in this life: Judaism: Proverbs 12:12 "If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?" Christianity: Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works." Revelations 2:23 "I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

BAHA'I FAITH: "And the time of the dead, that they should be judged means that the time has come that the dead, that is to say, those who are deprived of the spirit of the love of God and have not a share of the sanctified eternal life -- will be judged with justice, meaning they will arise to receive that which they deserve."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 58)

The time we are here on this earth we should be striving to prepare ourselves for the life to come and not become so embroiled and attached to this world around us as to lose sight of God's ultimate desires for us. We can find hints in the bible and the Bahá'í Faith where God's messengers tell us not to become attached to the world: Christianity: 1 John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." It is the vanities of this life that interferes with man's progression towards the world of God. Anything that inhibits, in anyway, our path towards the Creator is considered world in nature:

BAHA'I FAITH: "Whatsoever deterreth you, in this Day, from loving God is nothing but the world."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 276)

By the world is meant anything that interferes with our connection to our Heavenly Father; it could be the love of a new car or the obsession of a nice house. It could be the desire to achieve recognition from our peers or the love and passion of the flesh; anything in our lives that we hold as more important than our connection to God is of the world. Christianity: James 4:4 "…..know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?" If we have any of these obsessions in our lives we are not of God, but we are victims of our own selves caught in the world. Romans 9:8 "They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God:" If we lust after the flesh and the pleasures of the flesh God doesn't consider us one of His own, in fact, He considers those living after the flesh to be dead. Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die:" If we live after the flesh we shall DIE; Paul couldn't be any clearer on this. In fact if we just live after the pleasures of this life God considers us to be dead onto Him: 1 Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." Those people who only think worldly thoughts holding onto the pleasures of this earthly life are considered, by God, to be dead to the spirit even though they may be living and breathing in this physical world. So, what are God's answers to mankind's dilemmas to his attachment to the world? Colossians 3:2 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." Don't set your affections on the earth, set your affections on the things that are of God and prepare yourselves for the life to come in the next world.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Therefore, man should hear with attentive ear the call of the spiritual world, seeking first the Kingdom of God and its perfections."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 210)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 6:33 "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;" Seek ye the kingdom of God first, set your sights on heaven and don't fret over the little things of this life, meaning don't worry about this world and the things of this world; they

are only temporary and will soon be gone: Luke 12:29 "And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind." Luke 12:30 "For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things." Luke 12:31 "But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you." Seek the kingdom of God and the needs of this life will be taken care of as we live the life God has laid out for us.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Rest ye not, seek ye no composure, attach not yourselves to the luxuries of this ephemeral world, free yourselves from every attachment, and strive with heart and soul to become fully established in the Kingdom of God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of the Divine Plan, p. 95)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Philippians 3:18 "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:" Philippians 3:19 "Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It behoveth the people of Baha to die to the world and all that is therein, to be so detached from all earthly things that the inmates of Paradise may inhale from their garment the sweet smelling savor of sanctity, that all the peoples of the earth may recognize in their faces the brightness of the All-Merciful, and that through them may be spread abroad the signs and tokens of God, the Almighty, the All-Wise."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 100)

The messenger is a manifestation, a mediator between God and man.

264. The messenger is a manifestation, a mediator between God and man: So, the message God wants to share with mankind can be delivered to mankind in a way that man, with his limitations, can comprehend. Bahá'í Faith: "Each religion teaches that a mediator is necessary between man and the Creator -- one who receives the full light of the divine splendor and radiates it over the human world, as the earth's atmosphere receives and diffuses the warmth of the sun's rays."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 32)

JUDAISM: 2 Maccabees 14:15 "And made supplication to Him that had established His people forever, and who always helpeth His portion with manifestation of His presence." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Deuteronomy 34:10 "And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face," 34:11 "In all the signs and the wonders, which the LORD sent him to do." Moses was a mediator for God to man. Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. Christianity: 1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" Hebrews 9:15 "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament," Hebrews 8:6 ".....he is the mediator of a better covenant," Hebrews 12:24 "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant,"

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Prophets of God are the Mediators of God. All the Prophets and Messengers have come from One Holy Spirit and bear the Message of God, fitted to the age in which they appear. The One Light is in them and they are One with each other. But the Eternal does not become phenomenal; neither can the phenomenal become Eternal."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 24)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Each of the Prophets was a mediator through whom God visited and spoke to His people. Jesus was such a mediator, and the Christians have rightly regarded His appearance as a coming of God. In Him they saw the Face of God and through His lips they heard the Voice of God. Bahá'u'lláh tells us that the 'Coming' of the Lord of Hosts, the Everlasting Father, the Maker and Redeemer of the World, which, according to all the Prophets, is to take place at 'the time of the end,' means no other than His manifestation in a human temple,"**

(Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 212)

We are told in religion that we should meditate upon the writings of God.

265. We are told in religion that we should meditate upon the writings of God if we wish to have knowledge and attain enlightenment and joy: In most of these religions the word meditate means to reflect or think over the writings of God and what the message found in the words might be.  Judaism: Sirach 6: 37 "Let thy mind be upon the ordinances of the Lord and meditate continually in His commandments: He shall establish thine heart, and give thee wisdom at thine owns desire." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Joshua 1:8 "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Psalms 1:1 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Psalms 1:2 "But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." Psalms 1:3 "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his

season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 4:15 "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." Thomas "Keep in mind that true understanding of this text was meant to come from PERSONAL contact with the Divine, inspiration from within." So, think about or meditate upon the revealed word and discover the truth within the writings of God. (Apocrypha, The Gospel of Thomas)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: 10. "The time foreordained unto the peoples and kindreds of the earth is now come. The promises of God, as recorded in the Holy Scriptures, have all been fulfilled. Out of Zion hath gone forth the Law of God, and Jerusalem, and the hills and land thereof, are filled with the glory of His Revelation. Happy is the man that pondereth in his heart that which hath been revealed in the Books of God, the Help in Peril, the Self-Subsisting. Meditate upon this, O ye beloved of God, and let your ears be attentive unto His Word, so that ye may, by His grace and mercy, drink your fill from the crystal waters of constancy, and become as steadfast and immovable as the mountain in His Cause.**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 12)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "One hour's reflection is preferable to seventy years of pious worship."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 237)

Meekness.

466. Meekness, we are not really supposed to strive with one another, but show forth meekness and humbleness so

we become more God like: So that, peace and good will towards all mankind may be eventually achieved, on this earth, and war and brutality become a thing of the past and the lion and the lamb may symbolically lie down together as the writings of God promise. Judaism: Numbers 12:3 "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." Isaiah 29:19 "The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD" Psalms 147:6 "The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground." Psalms 25:9 "The meek will He guide in judgment: and the meek will He teach his way." Psalms 149:4 "For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation." Psalms 37:11 "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The beloved of God must each be the essence of purity and holiness; so may they be known by their purity, freedom and meekness in every land; they may drink from the eternal chalice of the love of God, enjoy its ecstasy, and through meeting the Beauty of Abha, they should be joyful, active, aglow with zeal and wonderful."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 365)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." 1 Timothy 6:11 "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." 2 Timothy 2:24 "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient," (gentle and humble) 2 Timothy 2:25 "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;" Titus 3:2 "Speak evil of no man..., be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men." 2 Corinthians 10:1 "I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ," 1 Peter 3:4 "Let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer to the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility;" (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 93) "be as a lamp shining forth with the light of the virtues of the world of humanity. Be trustworthy, sincere, affectionate and replete with chastity. Be illumined, be spiritual, be divine, be glorious, be quickened of God, be a Bahá'í." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 453)**

Be merciful and compassionate.

267. Being merciful and compassionate to all our fellow human brothers and sisters is a teaching found in all of God's religions: Mercy and compassion, towards one another, seems to be almost a prerequisite, in religion, for man's interactions with one another. This, if followed, could save a lot of difficulties, and pain and suffering, throughout the world if mankind would just adhere to these principles. ✡ Judaism: Exodus 33:19 "And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD

before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy." Proverbs 3:3 "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:" Proverbs 11:17 "The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh." 2 Kings 22:26 "With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright." Christianity: Luke 6:36 "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." 2 John 1:3 "Grace be with you, mercy, and peace."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Our greatest efforts must be directed towards detachment from the things of the world; we must strive to become more spiritual, more luminous, to follow the counsel of the Divine Teaching, to serve the cause of unity and true equality, to be merciful, to reflect the love of the Highest on all men, so that the light of the Spirit shall be apparent in all our deeds, to the end that all humanity shall be united, the stormy sea thereof calmed, and all rough waves disappear from off the surface of life's ocean henceforth unruffled and peaceful. Then will the New Jerusalem be seen by mankind, who will enter through its gates and receive the Divine Bounty."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 87)

BAHA'I FAITH: "All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization. The Almighty beareth Me witness: To act like the beasts of the field is unworthy of man. Those virtues that befit his dignity are forbearance, mercy, compassion and loving-kindness towards all the peoples and kindreds of the earth. Say: O friends! Drink your fill from this crystal stream that floweth through the heavenly grace of Him Who is the Lord of Names."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 214)

God is merciful to mankind.

268. Another teaching found in the writings of God is that God is merciful to mankind; in other words, we are the children of a Merciful God. We are told this throughout the different religions of God:  **Judaism: Deuteronomy "For the LORD thy God is a merciful God." Exodus "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth," 34:7 "Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin" 2 Chronicles "The LORD your God is gracious and merciful."**  **Christianity: Luke 1:78 "Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us," 1:79 "To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." James 3:17 "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." 2 John 1:3 "Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love." Ephesians 2:4 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us," Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "They that spread disorder in the land, and lay hands on the property of others, and enter a house without leave of its owner, We, verily, are clear of them, unless they repent and return unto God, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Merciful."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 23)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "I implore God to graciously aid Me in this, for unto such as beseech Him, He is the All-Bounteous, and of those who show mercy, He is the Most Merciful."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries)

Miracles.

269. Miracles are not absolute proof of God's manifestation, nor are miracles something to teach by. In the Bahá'í faith it is taught that though God's manifestations do perform miracles at times to help the people around them, it is the word of God itself that needs to be focused on and not a miracle that some may see as a bewitchment or not believe at all. Miracles are for those people who witness them, who see the event and have the mind to rationalize out what they are seeing; everything else is just hearsay. Nor are all miracles necessarily dealing with bodily ailments. Some of these conditions may be dealing with possible spiritual ailments. Christianity: Matthew 9:2 "And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." The question that immediately comes to mind is how sin relates to palsy? Matthew 9:6 "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house." Christ is relating sin to sickness in these two passages. Could it be that the man was sick with sin and Christ's words healed him? Could it be that not every time Christ is mentioned healing someone in the bible is a literal, physical event, but maybe sometimes a symbolic spiritual event relating to the soul?

BAHA'I FAITH: "We do not need to mention miracles, saying that out of rock water gushed forth, for such miracles and statements may be denied and refused by those who hear them."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 273 thru 274)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 10:1 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;" 1 Corinthians 10:2 "And were

all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;" 1 Corinthians 10:3 "And did all eat the same spiritual meat;" 1 Corinthians 10:4 "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

If miracles were the standard by which man should know God by, think of all the miracles God performed when He brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; the numerous plagues He brought down on the house of Pharaoh and his people, the pass over, the parting of the red sea, manta from heaven for over forty years, water gushing out of flint rock when there was no water around to be found, the great pillar of fire that went before Israel at night, the great pillar of cloud that went before Israel by the day, with all of these things happening before the eyes of the children of Israel you would think that there is no way that the children of Israel could do wrong and not believe in the God of Moses, but this was not the case. Not only did Israel do wrong before God they turned from God even while Moses was on the earth making a golden calf to worship: Judaism: Exodus 32:1 "And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him." Exodus 32:24 "And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf." Nor was this the only time Israel turned its back on God. In Judges of the bible Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord seven times, and worshiped other gods. And, in Samuel and Kings I lost count of the number of times the children of Israel turned their back on God and went after other gods. If the occurrence of miracles from God was the true standard we should use to determine if a prophet was from God then the children of Israel would not have turned aside from God, but apparently the talk of miracles wasn't enough and the people didn't believe what their eyes had seen, let alone those who were not witness to these events.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the faith we are instructed that a miracle is something personal for those people experiencing it and not something to be used as a standard to decide whether a prophet comes from God or not."**

"Some of the miracles mentioned in the Holy Books such as the raising of the dead, the curing of lepers, or the ascending to heaven have spiritual significance."

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 3, p. 39)

It is the word of God itself and the way it miraculously transforms people's lives that is the true miracle to share with others and not an event that may or may not be real.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "I do not wish to mention the miracles of Bahá'u'lláh, for it may perhaps be said that these are traditions, liable both to truth and to error, like the accounts of the miracles of Christ in the Gospel, which come to us from the apostles, and not from anyone else, and are denied by the Jews. Though if I wish to mention the supernatural acts of Bahá'u'lláh, they are numerous; they are acknowledged in the Orient, and even by some non-Bahá'ís. But these narratives are not decisive proofs and evidences to all; the hearer might perhaps say that this account may not be in accordance with what occurred, for it is known that other sects recount miracles performed by their founders. For instance, the followers of Brahmanism relate miracles. From what evidence may we know that those are false and that these are true? If these are fables, the others also are fables; if these are generally accepted, so also the others are generally accepted. Consequently, these accounts are not satisfactory proofs. Yes, miracles are proofs for the eyewitness only, and even he may regard them not as a miracle but as an enchantment. Extra-ordinary feats have also been related of some conjurors."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 36)

Though, there are many who feel that it is signs of miracles that are the greatest proof of a messenger's validity many people who are told about these fantastic events just shrug them off as someone's vivid imagination and ignore the events entirely. To this end it may be a good idea to look at the way Jesus Christ himself handled the prospect of the people around him teaching his gospel through the spread of tales of miracles instead of his teachings. Christianity: Matthew 8:3 "And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." Matthew 8:4 "And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them." Matthew 9:28 "And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord." Matthew 9:29 "Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you." Matthew 9:30 "And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straightly charged them, saying, See that no man know it." Matthew 11:15 "But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;" Matthew 11:16 "And charged them that they should not make him known:" Matthew 17:2 "And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light." Matthew 17:3 "And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him." Matthew 17:5 "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Matthew 17:9 "And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead." Mark 7:35 "And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain." Mark 7:36 "And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it;"

BAHA'I FAITH: "We entreat Our loved ones not to besmirch the hem of Our raiment with the dust of falsehood, neither to allow references

to what they have regarded as miracles and prodigies to debase Our rank and station, or to mar the purity and sanctity of Our name."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 33)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 8:52 "And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth." Luke 8:53 "And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead." Luke 8:54 "And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise." Luke 8:55 "And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat." Luke 8:56 "And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done."**

It is plainly a matter to see Christ's response to the people around him using his performance of miracles to teach those people around him. In Christ's own words he stated "tell no man" or tell no one of his actions in healing people around him. If Christ himself didn't want his message spread about in the midst of a plethora of miracles who are we, as his followers, to argue with His divine wisdom.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "One morning 'Abdu'l-Bahá, on entering the room looked about and said: "It is just like a miracle, our being here together. There is no racial, political or patriotic tie. We are drawn together by the words of Bahá'u'lláh, and in like manner will all the races of the earth be drawn together. Of this, rest assured!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 105)

Moderation in our actions.

270. Moderation in our actions is taught in the religions of God to help us regulate ourselves and help us interact with one another: Moderation is a precept that needs to be a part of each and every one of us, the religions of God tell us.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whatsoever passeth beyond the limits of moderation will cease to exert a beneficial influence."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 215)

 **JUDAISM: Sirach 31:29 "But wine drunken with excess maketh bitterness of the mind. Be not insatiable in any dainty thing, nor too greedy upon meats: For excess of meats bringeth sickness, and surfeiting (excessiveness) will turn into choler (bad temper). By surfeiting (excess) have many perished." Sirach 31:20 "Sound sleep cometh of moderate eating: he riseth early, and his wits are with him: but the pain of watching, and choler, and pangs of the belly, are with an insatiable man." "Be not greedy" and "Be not greedy to add money to money: but let it be as refuse" Psalms 23:1 "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." Proverbs 13:25 "The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Sirach, 1 Maccabees, Psalms, Proverbs and Tobias)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Fear ye God, and take heed not to outstrip the bounds of moderation, and be numbered among the extravagant."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 250)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 23:24 "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. Matthew 23:25 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess." Philippians 4:5 "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All other things are subject to this same principle of moderation. Render thanks unto thy Lord Who hath remembered**

thee in this wondrous Tablet. All-Praise be to God, the Lord of the glorious throne."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 342)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 4:1 "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;" 4:2 "That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." In moderate actions. 1 Peter 4:3 "For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4:4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:" 4:5 "Who shall give account to Him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead." 1 Peter 4:6 "For, for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whoso cleaveth to justice, can, under no circumstances, transgress the limits of moderation. He discerneth the truth in all things, through the guidance of Him Who is the All-Seeing. The civilization, so often vaunted by the learned exponents of arts and sciences, will, if allowed to overleap the bounds of moderation, bring great evil upon men. Thus warneth you He Who is the All-Knowing. If carried to excess, civilization will prove as prolific a source of evil as it had been of goodness when kept within the restraints of moderation. Meditate on this, O people, and be not of them that wander distraught in the wilderness of error. The day is approaching when its flame will devour the cities, when the Tongue of Grandeur will proclaim: "The Kingdom is God's, the Almighty, the All-Praised!""**

"All other things are subject to this same principle of moderation. Render thanks unto thy Lord Who hath remembered thee in this wondrous Tablet. All-Praise be to God, the Lord of the glorious throne."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 342)

To whom much is given much is required.

271. To whom much is given much is required. Christianity: Luke 12:48 "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

BAHA'I FAITH: "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required."

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 136)

Morality, the teaching of good morals is a fundamental teaching.

272. Morality, the teaching of good morals is a fundamental teaching found in all of God's religions: Bahá'í Faith: "The greatest bestowal of God in the world of humanity is religion; for assuredly the divine teachings of religion are above all other sources of instruction and development to man. Religion confers upon man eternal life and guides his footsteps in the world of morality. It opens the doors of unending happiness and bestows everlasting honor upon the human kingdom. It has been the basis of all civilization and progress in the history of mankind."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 270)

These are just a few of the morals taught to mankind by Moses: Judaism: Exodus 20:12 "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." 20:13 "Thou shalt not kill." 20:14 "Thou shalt not commit adultery." 20:15 "Thou shalt not steal." 20:16 "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." 20:17 "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy

neighbour's." Leviticus 19:11 "Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another." 19:12 "And ye shall not swear by My name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD." 19:13 "Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning." 19:14 "Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD." 19:15 "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour." 19:16 "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour; I am the LORD." 19:17 "Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him." 19:18 "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." Psalms 25:21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me;"

These are just a few of the morals taught to mankind by Jesus Christ: ✝ Christianity: Luke 18:20 "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother." 1 Corinthians 7:5 "Defraud ye not one the other," 1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 6:11 "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life." 2 Peter 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 1:5 "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;" 1:6 "And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;" 1:7 "And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

These are just a few morals found within the Bahá'í Faith ✵Bahá'í Faith: "Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and

friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer to the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 285)

"In brief, let each one of you be as a lamp shining forth with the light of the virtues of the world of humanity. Be trustworthy, sincere, affectionate and replete with chastity. Be illumined, be spiritual, be divine, be glorious, be quickened of God, be a Bahá'í." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 453)

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 93 and Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 453)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "I have come here with this mission; that through your endeavors, through your heavenly morals, through your devoted efforts a perfect bond of unity and love may be established between the east and the west, so that the bestowals of God may descend upon all and that all may be seen to be the parts of the same tree, -- the great tree of the human family. For mankind may be likened to the branches, leaves, blossoms and fruit of that tree." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 219) "Be kind in truth, not only in appearance and outwardly. Every soul of the friends of God must concentrate his mind on this, that he may manifest the mercy of God and the bounty of the Forgiving One. He must do good to every soul whom he encounters, and render benefit to him, becoming the cause**

of improving the morals and correcting the thoughts so that the light of guidance may shine forth and the bounty of His Holiness the Merciful One may encompass. Love is light in whatsoever house it may shine and enmity is darkness in whatsoever abode it dwell." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 216)

These are just a few morals brought to the tree of humanity by the messengers of God. These are just a few of the good moral virtues taught by the religions of God to mankind. There are many more to be found for those who are willing to look. (See oneness of religions, by Edward Jewell for more information)

God's ancient name.

273. God's ancient name. God's ancient name, I AM, is found in all the great world religions of God. Judaism: Exodus 3:13 "And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?" Exodus 3:14 "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." Christianity: John 8:58 "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I Am."

BAHA'I FAITH: "God hath, through His tongue that uttereth the truth, testified in all His Tablets to these words: 'I Am He that liveth.'" (I AM HE or I AM)

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 207)

The coming of the new heavens and a new earth not literal.

274. <u>The coming of the new heavens and a new earth are not meant to be taken physically or literally but symbolic</u>. ✡ **<u>Judaism</u>: <u>Isaiah</u> 65:16 "That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes" <u>Isaiah</u> 65:17 "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."**

In the Bahá'í Writings we find that the terms last days and end of the world are used to speak of the end of a spiritual cycle and the beginning of another and not the actual end of the physical world and the physical heavens. ✝ **<u>Christianity</u>: <u>Hebrews</u> 9:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but <u>now once in the end of the world</u> <u>hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself</u>." We see that by Christ sacrificing himself for our sins there came about the end of a spiritual cycle of the spiritual world and not the end of the actual earth. So, following this reasoning let us assume that the new heavens and the new earth spoken of in the bible are not to be taken literally as a newly created planet earth which would take billions of years to make as the first earth did.** ✡ **<u>Judaism</u>: <u>Isaiah</u> 65:16 "The former troubles are forgotten," or the troubles of the past are forgotten, and not looked at anymore, <u>Isaiah</u> 65:16 "they are hid from mine eyes." <u>Isaiah</u> 65:17 "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth:" As I said earlier, by Christ dying for us the old spiritual cycle of the world ended, but in its place a new spiritual cycle of the new earth began in its place by the new heavenly laws and new faith taking the place of the older worn out religion and laws.** ✝ **<u>Christianity</u>: <u>Revelations</u> 21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."**

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "It is that the first heaven and earth signify the former Law. For it is said that the first heaven and earth have passed away and there is no more sea -- that is to say, that the earth is the place of judgment, and on this earth of judgment there is no sea,**

meaning that the teachings and the Law of God will entirely spread over the earth,"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 67)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Peter 3:13 "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." With the new heavens and the new earth or the new laws of God righteousness returns to this earth which becomes a new earth.**

The same is true for today with the coming of Bahá'u'lláh, new laws were revealed and the new heavens and the new earth promised in the bible for this day have come about.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "They are like a wonderful new world of thought just beginning to be explored, and when we realize that Bahá'u'lláh has brought teachings and laws for a thousand years to come, we can readily see that each new generation may find some greater meaning in the writings than the ones gone before did."**

(Compilations, NSA USA - Developing Distinctive Baha'i Communities)

(See latter days and end of the world for more information)

He shall have a new name.

275. He shall have a new name. Many people are waiting for the self same Jesus that died in Israel so long ago to come in clouds of glory to rescue them from this world of toil and turmoil (See coming down on the clouds for more information). But, Jesus himself, hints that things with his next coming may not be as simple or happen quite as literally as the people believe. Jesus tells us that if we hear his name we are not supposed to go and investigate to see if it's really

him. As a matter of fact he tell us that there will arise many false Christ's who will deceive many including the very elect. ✝ Christianity: Matthew 24:4 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you." Matthew 24:5 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Matthew 24:23 "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not." Matthew 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:25 "Behold, I have told you before." Matthew 24:26 "Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Mark 13:6 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ;" Mark 13:21 "And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:" Mark 13:22 "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect."

The question that immediately comes to mind after reading Christ's warnings about false prophets is that if we are not supposed to go and investigate to see if Christ has in fact really returned how are we supposed to know when the real Jesus Christ really does shows up? The problem, it seems, may not be in the new personage of Christ, but the problem may be in the name itself. The bible hints that when Christ returns he shall come with a new name.

New Name: ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 62:2 "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name." ✝ Christianity: Revelations 2:17 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Revelations 3:12 "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I

will write upon him my new name." It seems clear that when Jesus returns he will come bearing a new name, but if he is called by a new name, won't we also be called by a new name?

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 65:15 "And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call His servants by another name:"**  **Christianity: Revelations 22: 3 "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:" Revelations 22:4 "And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads."**

Another question to think about, if Jesus will in fact have a new name when he returns to us, the question is, what will that new name be? For an answer to that question I found that we just needed to go back to the bible for the answer.

(The New Name)  **Christianity: Revelations 19:16 "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." These are just a few of his, the one who is to come, the return of Jesus Christ, titles. Some other titles he has are the comforter: John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;" John 15:26 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:" John 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." John 16:8 "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"**

The Spirit of Truth is another one of his titles:  **Christianity: John 16:12 "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."**  **Judaism: Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder:**

and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." All of these names were also titles of one called Bahá'u'lláh (The Glory of God).

The Glory of God (Bahá'u'lláh) also the Glory of the Lord is the name the prophet founder of the Bahá'í Faith went by and the name he is call most:

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 7:55 "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the (glory of God), and Jesus standing on the right hand of God," Paul tells us that Stephen, being under the influence of the Holy Ghost, looked up into heaven and saw Bahá'u'lláh (The Glory of God) and Jesus Christ standing on the right hand of God just before he was stoned to death. I think this statement from Paul is a pretty good indicator of who would be coming in Christ's place and by what name he will be known by. Philippians 2:11 "And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the (glory of God) the Father." The Father was also one of Bahá'u'lláh's titles, so Paul is saying that every tongue should confess the lordship of Jesus Christ to the Father (Bahá'u'lláh) The Glory of God, which happens when a person becomes a Bahá'í there by accepting Christianity as one of God's true religions. Revelations 15:8 "And the temple was filled with smoke from the (glory of God), and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple," Revelations 21:10 "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God," Revelations 21:11 "Having the (glory of God):" Revelations 21:23 "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the (glory of God did lighten it)." Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Jesus is telling us that he shall come in or be in The Glory of The Father, which is another way of saying Jesus will come in or be a part of The Glory of God (Bahá'u'lláh).**

When we bear in mind the unity and oneness of the prophets (see oneness of The Prophets of God for more information) we see that this

statement is true. The teachings of Jesus, and the spirit of Jesus are both found in Bahá'u'lláh and in his teachings (see The Laws of God and The promised one shall glorify Jesus Christ for more information).

On another note, the title The Glory of the Lord which is used much in the bible in Isaiah and Ezekiel is just another way of saying the Glory of God for those who perceive: ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 35:2 "It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the (glory of the LORD), and the excellency of our God." The Glory of the Lord or The Glory of God (Bahá'u'lláh) shall be seen on Carmel and in Sharon, which is a true statement known to anyone who has visited Mount Carmel in Haifa Israel, which is the seat of the Universal House of Justice of the Bahá'í Faith for the world. As well as, Carmel being the place where Bahá'u'lláh actually pitched his tent when he visited Mount Carmel on occasion. Isaiah 40:4 "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:" (of note, the Israeli government, unasked by the Bahá'ís, has moved buildings and roadway making the way to the Bahá'í monuments and access to the Universal House of Justice as well as the nine terraces forming a straight line from the sea up to the top of Mount Carmel, making the crooked straight for the eyes of the world.) Isaiah 40:5 "And the (glory of the LORD) shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." Isaiah 42:18 "Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see. Isaiah 59:20 "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD." Isaiah 59:21 "As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever." Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee." Ezekiel 1:28 "As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the (glory of the LORD). And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake." Ezekiel 3:12 "Then the spirit took me up, and I

heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, saying, Blessed be the glory of the LORD from his place." Ezekiel 3:23 "Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face." Ezekiel 10:4 "Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD'S glory." Ezekiel 43:1 "Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east:" Ezekiel 43:2 "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory." The Glory of the God of Israel is just another way of saying The Glory of the Lord or The Glory of God which is just another way of saying Bahá'u'lláh. Ezekiel 43:4 "And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east." Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." Psalms 138:4 "All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth." Psalms 138:5 "Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD." It seems clear that The Glory of God, The Glory of the Lord and The Glory of the God of Israel, are all names that refer to Bahá'u'lláh and that the coming of Bahá'u'lláh only reinforces the accounts given in the bible and the prophecies of the bible. And finally Paul tells us: ✝ Christianity: 1 Corinthians 10:31 "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Or in-other-words, what-so-ever we do, do it all to further the cause of God's new message and manifestation for this day.

God created man noble.

276. God created man noble, man is God's greatest noblest treasure, on this earth, save the manifestation of God who is the perfect man: (Noble, honor, righteous, virtuous) One of the basic teachings found in the bible is that God created man in His own image (See Man's spirit or soul created in God's image not the physical body of man for more information.) We find this teaching in the bible, The

Bahá'í Faith and hinted at in the other religions of God: ✡ Judaism: Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Ecclesiastes 7:29 "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright (hath made man noble)." 1 Kings 9:6 ".....A man of God..... is an honourable (noble) man; Job 22:8 "....He had the earth; and the honourable (noble) man dwelt in it." Proverbs 10:11 "The mouth of a righteous man (of nobility) is a well of life:" 2 Maccabees 6:31 "Man died, leaving his death for an example of a noble courage, and a memorial of virtue, not only unto young men, but unto all his nation." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) ✝ Christianity: 2 Peter 1:3 "Him (God) that hath called us (man) to glory and virtue (nobility)." James 5:16 "Pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous (honourable, noble) man availeth much. Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." O man of nobility. 4:9 "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you." O noble man.

Being that God created man in His own noble image, God considers man to be His greatest creation in this existence. We find this teaching mentioned in the bible: ✝ Christianity: 1 Corinthians 11:7 "Man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God:" 1 John 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." ✷Bahá'í Faith: "Man is a child of God, most noble, lofty and beloved by God, his Creator. Therefore, he must ever strive that the divine bounties and virtues bestowed upon him may prevail and control him."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 294)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Although the mineral, vegetable, animal and man all have actual being, yet the mineral has no knowledge of the vegetable. It cannot apprehend it. It cannot imagine nor understand it."**

"It is the same with the vegetable. Any progress it may make, however highly it may become developed, it will never apprehend the animal, nor understand it. It is, so to speak, without news of it. It has no ears, no sight, no understanding."

"It is the same with the animal. However much it may progress in its own kingdom, however refined its feelings may become, it will have no real notion of the world of man or of his special intellectual faculties. The animal cannot understand the roundness of the earth, nor its motion in space, nor the central position of the sun, nor can it imagine such a thing as the all-pervading ether. Although the mineral, vegetable, animal and man himself are actual beings, the difference between their kingdoms prevents members of the lower degree from comprehending the essence and nature of those of the superior degree. This being so, how can the temporal and phenomenal comprehend the Lord of Hosts? It is clear that this is impossible!"

"But the Essence of Divinity, the Sun of Truth, shines forth upon all horizons and is spreading its rays upon all things. Each creature is the recipient of some portion of that power, and man, who contains the perfection of the mineral, the vegetable and animal, as well as his own distinctive qualities, has become the noblest of created beings. It stands written that he is made in the Image of God. Mysteries that were hidden he discovers; and secrets that were concealed he brings into the light. By Science and by Art he brings hidden powers into the region of the visible world. Man perceives the hidden law in created things and cooperates with it. Lastly the perfect man, the Prophet, is one who is transfigured, one who has the purity and clearness of a perfect mirror -- one who reflects the Sun of Truth. Of such a one -- of such a Prophet and Messenger -- we can say that the Light of Divinity with the heavenly Perfections dwells in him."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 22)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We have many times demonstrated and established that man is the noblest of beings, the sum of all perfections, and that all beings and all existences are the centers from which the glory of God is reflected, that is to say, the signs of the Divinity of God are apparent in the realities of things and of creatures."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 310)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Behold, a light hath shone forth out of the morn of eternity, and lo, its waves have penetrated the inmost reality of all men. Man, the noblest and most perfect of all created things, excelleth them all in the intensity of this revelation, and is a fuller expression of its glory."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 178)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: 22. "O SON OF SPIRIT! Noble have I created thee, yet thou hast abased thyself. Rise then unto that for which thou wast created."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

Obey your government.

277. Obedience to your government is a must according to the writings of God. Obeying the laws of the land is a requirement in Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith according to the word of God:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "For while all sects and races in Persia and Turkestan are absorbed in promoting their own interests and only obey their governments either with the hope of reward or from fear of**

punishment, the Bahá'ís are the well-wishers of the government, obedient to its laws and bearing love towards all peoples."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 293)

This, as I said, is also a teaching found in the bible we find when reading the book of Peter. ✝ Christianity: 1 Peter 2:13 "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;" 1 Peter 2:14 "Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well." 1 Peter 2:17 "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." Hebrews 13:17 "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:" ✡ Judaism: Proverbs 28:7 "Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father."

BAHA'I FAITH: "We must obey and be the well-wishers of the governments of the land, regard disloyalty unto a just king as disloyalty to God Himself and wishing evil to the government a transgression of the Cause of God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 440)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'ís Should Obey the Government even at Risk of Sacrificing Administrative Affairs -- In Matters of Faith no Compromise Allowed, even though Outcome is Death."

"For whereas the friends should obey the government under which they live, even at the risk of sacrificing all their administrative affairs and interests, they should under no circumstances suffer their inner religious beliefs and convictions to be violated and transgressed by any authority whatever. A distinction of a fundamental importance must, therefore, be made between spiritual and administrative matters. Whereas the former are sacred and inviolable and hence cannot be subject to compromise, the later are secondary and can consequently be given up and even sacrificed for the sake of

obedience to the laws and regulations of the government. Obedience to the state is so vital a principle of the Cause that should the authorities in ... decide to-day to prevent Bahá'ís from holding any meeting or publishing any literature they should obey ... But, as already pointed out, such an allegiance is confined merely to administrative matter which if checked can only retard the progress of the Faith for some time. In matters of belief, however, no compromise whatever should be allowed, even though the outcome of it be death or expulsion."

(Bahá'í Faith, Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 446)

Obedience to the word of God is a necessity.

278. Obedience to the word of God is a necessity if we wish to live a Godly life and be considered obeying the holy covenant. This is one of the causes of our spiritual development. We must obey the word and commandments of the Lord if we wish to be worthy of His love. By obedience we demonstrate our true feelings to God and not just mouthing empty words that have no life in them. This is a teaching found in the Bible and it is also a teaching found in the Bahá'í Faith. ✡ Judaism: Exodus 19:5 "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:" Deuteronomy 11:26 "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;" Deuteronomy 11:27 "A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:" Deuteronomy 11:28 "And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God," Deuteronomy 27:10 "Thou shalt therefore obey the voice of the LORD thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes, which I command thee this day." Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" Deuteronomy 30:20 "That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that

thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days:"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Word of God which must be obeyed shall be upraised."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 45)

 **JUDAISM: 1 Samuel 15:22 "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." Isaiah 33:15 "He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;" Isaiah 33:16 "He shall dwell on high:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is incumbent upon everyone to obey Him in whatsoever God hath ordained;"**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 108)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 19:17 "if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 15:10 "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." Galatians 5:25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Give ear unto the verses of God which He Who is the sacred Lote-Tree reciteth unto you. They are assuredly the infallible balance, established by God, the Lord of this world and the next. Through them the soul of man is caused to wing its flight**

towards the Dayspring of Revelation, and the heart of every true believer is suffused with light. Such are the laws which God hath enjoined upon you, such His commandments prescribed unto you in His Holy Tablet; obey them with joy and gladness, for this is best for you, did ye but know."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 73)

There is only one God.

279. <u>There is only one God</u>. In the Bahá'í Faith we believe there is only one God, the creator of the heavens and the earth. This is also the belief held in Christianity, as well Judaism: ✡ <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Deuteronomy</u> 4:39 "Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else." <u>Deuteronomy</u> 32:39 "See now that I, even I, am He, and there is no god with Me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand." 2 <u>Samuel</u> 7:22 "Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee," <u>Psalms</u> 86:10 "For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: <u>thou art God alone</u>."

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "There is one God; mankind is one; the foundations of religion are one."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 20)

✡ <u>JUDAISM</u>: <u>Isaiah</u> 43:10 "Ye are My witnesses, saith the LORD, and My servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He: before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me." <u>Isaiah</u> 44:6 "Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and <u>beside Me there is no God</u>." <u>Isaiah</u> 45:5 "<u>I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside Me</u>: I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me:" <u>Isaiah</u> 45:6 "That they may know

from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside Me. I am the LORD, and there is none else." Isaiah 45:18 "For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else." Christianity: Acts 4:24 "Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is; (nothing has God created in His great creation was created in vain)" Judaism: Isaiah 45:19 "I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye Me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right." Isaiah 45:20 "Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save." Isaiah 45:21 "Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside Me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside Me." Isaiah 45:22 "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."

BAHA'I FAITH: "As the East and the West are illumined by one sun, so all races, nations, and creeds shall be seen as the servants of the One God. The whole earth is one home, and all peoples, did they but know it, are bathed in the oneness of God's mercy. God created all. He gives sustenance to all. He guides and trains all under the shadow of His bounty."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 38)

JUDAISM: Jeremiah 10:10 "But the LORD is the true God, He is the living God, and an everlasting King: at His wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide His indignation." Malachi 2:10 "Have we not all one Father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?" Christianity: Mark 12:29 "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O

Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:" Mark 12:32 "And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but He:" John 17:33 "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." Thessalonians 1:99 "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All the divine Manifestations have proclaimed the oneness of God and the unity of mankind. They have taught that men should love and mutually help each other in order that they might progress."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 245)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 5:20 "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and Eternal Life."**  **Judaism: 2 Kings 19:15 "And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, Thou art the God, even Thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; Thou hast made heaven and earth."**  **Christianity: James 2:19 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." 1 Corinthians 8:4 "As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one." 1 Corinthians 8:5 "For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many)" 1 Corinthians 8:6 "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." Ephesians 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." 1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O thou believer in the oneness of God! Know thou that nothing profiteth a soul save the love of the All-Merciful, nothing lighteth up a heart save the splendour that shineth from the realm of the Lord."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 178)

Oneness of mankind.

280. Oneness of mankind. In the Bahá'í teachings the oneness of mankind is an essential teaching. Bahá'u'lláh teaches that an equal standard of human rights must be recognized and adopted for all mankind for the further progress of the human world.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh teaches that an equal standard of human rights must be recognized and adopted. In the estimation of God all men are equal; there is no distinction or preferment for any soul in the dominion of His justice and equity."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 240)

 **JUDAISM: Malachi 2:10 "Have we not all one Father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?"**

We were all created by the same God:  **Judaism: Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." Genesis 1:27 "And God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Equality and Brotherhood must be established among all members of mankind. This is according to Justice. The general rights of mankind must be guarded and preserved."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 28)

 **JUDAISM: Leviticus 19:18 "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:33 "And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him." Leviticus 19:34 "But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." Deuteronomy 10:19 "Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." Psalms 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Deuteronomy 15:7 "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:" Deuteronomy 15:11 "For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land." Proverbs 25:21 "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "A Bahá'í denies no religion; he accepts the Truth in all, and would die to uphold it. He loves all men as his brothers, of whatever class, of whatever race or nationality, of whatever creed or color, whether good or bad, rich or poor, beautiful or hideous."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 56)

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 1:27 "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." Genesis 1:28 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have**

dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the estimation of God there is no distinction of color; all are one in the color and beauty of servitude to Him. Color is not important; the heart is all-important. It matters not what the exterior may be if the heart be pure and white within. God does not behold differences of hue and complexion; He looks at the hearts."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 267)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:22 "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" Matthew 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Human brotherhood is, likewise, as clear and evident as the sun, for all are servants of one God, belong to one humankind, inhabit the same globe, are sheltered beneath the overshadowing dome of heaven and submerged in the sea of divine mercy."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 150)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 3:11 "He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise." Mark 12:29 "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God**

is one Lord:" Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." Mark 12:31 "And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." Luke 10:27 "And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Luke 10:29 "But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?" Luke 10:30 "And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead." Luke 10:31 "And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side." Luke 10:32 "And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side." Luke 10:33 "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him," Luke 10:34 "And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him." Luke 10:35 "And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee." Luke 10:36 "Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?" Luke 10:37 "And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Hence associate with each other in amity; love one another; abandon the prejudices of race; forget forever this gloomy darkness of ignorance, for the Century of Light, the Sun of Reality, hath appeared. Now is the time for affiliation and now is the period for unification."**

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 281)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 17:26 "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;" Galatians 6:10 "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men." 1 Thessalonians 3:12 "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:" 1 John 2:9 "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now." 1 John 2:10 "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him." 1 John 2:11 "But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The divine purpose is that men should live in unity, concord and agreement and should love one another."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 245)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 4:20 "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" 1 John 4:21 "And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." 1 Peter 2:17 "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." 1 Peter 3:8 "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The principle or teaching of Bahá'u'lláh is the proclamation of the oneness of the world of humanity -- that all are servants of God and belong to one family; that God has created all and, therefore, His bestowals are universal; and that His providence, training, sustenance and loving-kindness surround all mankind."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 106)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." 1 John 3:15 "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

BAHA'I FAITH: "As the East and the West are illumined by one sun, so all races, nations, and creeds shall be seen as the servants of the One God. The whole earth is one home, and all peoples, did they but know it, are bathed in the oneness of God's mercy. God created all. He gives sustenance to all. He guides and trains all under the shadow of his bounty. We must follow the example God Himself gives us, and do away with all disputations and quarrels."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 38)

Oneness of the prophets of God.

281. Oneness of the prophets of God. In the Bahá'í Faith we belief in the oneness of God, which means mankind is one race, because all humans came from the same God, which means that all religions are one because the teaching of God come to all mankind not just a chosen few.

BAHA'I FAITH: "There is one God; mankind is one; the foundations of religion are one."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 20)

This leads us to the oneness of the prophets which God has been sending to all mankind throughout the ages to teach humanity about Him preparing us to eventually meet Him.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The term progressive revelation is used to denote the continuous number of prophets, or manifestations of God, that have been sent to the earth as divine educators of mankind. The Reality of the divine Religions is one, because the Reality is one and cannot be two. All the prophets are united in their message, and unshaken. They are like the sun; in different seasons they ascend from different rising points on the horizon. Therefore every ancient prophet gave the glad tidings of the future, and every future has accepted the past."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 28)

Some people might think this is an entirely new teaching not found in the other religions, but that would be a mistake. This is also a teaching of the other religions including Christianity, but the teachings of progressive revelation are more obscure and harder to find in the older writings of God.  **Judaism: Sirach 36:15 "Give testimony unto those that thou hast possessed from the beginning, and raise up prophets that have been in thy name." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me;" Deuteronomy 18:18 "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put My words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." With this one statement Paul introduces us to the concept of progressive revelation and the oneness of all the prophets. The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. What this is saying to us is that all the prophets are one in essence because God has sent them all with the same purpose and the same over all mission. If one prophet chose to use the name of a prophet before him he speaks the truth bearing the oneness of essence of all the prophets of God and their overall mission from God in mind.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Muhammad, the Point of the Qur'án, revealed: 'I am all the Prophets.' Likewise, He saith: 'I am the first Adam, Noah, Moses, and Jesus.'"**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 51)

But if that same messenger chooses to use another name bearing in mind the unique differences of each individual prophetic cycle and over all different needs of mankind that prophet also speaks the truth. Likewise if that messenger were to say I am the first of all the prophets he speaks the truth: Christianity: Revelations 1:11 "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:" And if that same prophet were to say he is the last of all the prophets he also would speak the absolute truth: Revelations 22:13 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." All of the manifestations of God are one in their being, one in their goals and one in God. They are the beginning of God's wonderful message and the end of all prophetic cycles, so no matter what name they are going by at the time all the manifestations teachings lead back to the one and only God who is educating all mankind to a better life.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If we deny One of the Manifestations of God, we deny all. To inflict persecution upon One is to persecute the Others. In all degrees of existence each One praises and sanctifies the Others. Each of Them holds to the solidarity of mankind and promotes the unity of human hearts."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 208)

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 1:70 "He (God) spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:" Acts 3:21 "God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." Hebrews 9:26 "For then must he (Jesus Christ) often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." This example from Paul demonstrates that Christ, by

whatever name he chose to go by, has been coming to mankind "since the foundation of the world" and that he considered Jesus to be one of many prophets coming to mankind since the existence of mankind on this planet.

(See progressive revelation for more information)

Here are some other prophets who also believed in the oneness of all the prophets of God and taught this to mankind through their teachings: Islam: 84. "Say: 'We believe in Allah (God), and in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to Abraham, Isma'il (Ishmael), Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes, and in (Books) given to Moses, Jesus, and the Prophets, from their Lord."

(The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 3)

ISLAM 23. "Allah (God) has revealed (from time to time) the most beautiful Message in the form of a Book, consistent with itself, (yet) repeating (its teaching in various aspects" 106. "None of Our revelations do We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, but We substitute something better or similar; knowest thou not that Allah hath power over all things? Knowest thou not that to Allah belongeth the dominion of the heavens and the earth! And besides Him ye have neither patron nor helper."

(The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surahs 2 and 39)

ISLAM "Allah's Apostle said, "Both in this world and in the Hereafter, I am the nearest of all the people to Jesus, the son of Mary. The prophets are paternal brothers; their mothers are different, but their religion is one."

(Islam, Hadith, Bukhari Vol 4, Book 55, # 652)

ZOROASTRIANISM: "The busy world is apt to forget the most important lesson of life so the merciful Mazda (God) sends prophets

now and then to remind men of their highest destiny." (ZOROASTER, Hymns of Atharvan)

 **ZOROASTRIANISM: "If one disbelieves in the spiritual experience of the prophet he deprives himself of the means of salvation. The gospel of the prophet enables one to have a glimpse of His spirit. All the prophets teach the same truth. The lamps are different, but the flame is the same." (ZOROASTER, Hymns of Atharvan p. 468)**

 **HINDUISM: "I come, and go, and come. When Righteousness Declines, O Bharata! when Wickedness Is strong, I rise, from age to age, and take Visible shape, and move a man with men, Succouring the good, thrusting the evil back, And setting Virtue on her seat again."**

(Hindu, Bhagavad Gita (Edwin Arnold tr) chapter 4)

 **HINDUISM: "As I before have been So will I be again for thee; with lightened heart behold! Once more I am thy Krishna, the form thou knew'st of old!"**

(Hindu, Bhagavad Gita (Edwin Arnold tr) chapter 9)

 **BUDDHISM: "I am not the first Buddha who came upon earth, nor shall I be the last. In due time another Buddha will arise.... He shall reveal to you the same eternal truths which I have taught you. He will preach to you His religion, glorious in its origin, glorious at the climax and glorious at the goal, in the spirit and in the letter." [1 Sermon of the Great Passing.]**

 **BUDDHISM: "I am known by uncounted trillions of names. They address me by different names not realizing that they are all names of the one Tathagata. Some recognize me as Tathagata, some as The Self-existent One, some as Gautama the Ascetic, some as Buddha. (Buddha, Lankavatara Sutra)**

 **SABEANISM: “In the Name of the Great Life (God). Vines shone in the water And in the Jordan mighty they grew. Ye are flourishing offshoots. Messengers hither I bring you.” “Establishing Your likeness and giving us light, Let your radiance shine upon us.” (Sabeanism, Ginza Rba- chapters 177 and 382, The religion of Adam, the father of mankind, the one many believe to be the first created man.)**

(More writings such as these can be seen in the website www.onenessofreligions.com and the charity website www.universalconcord.com go take a look if the unity of these other writings interests you or look in my other books)

Oneness of the religions of the world.

282. Oneness of the religions of the world: Having demonstrated that all the manifestations of God come from the same God, (See Oneness of God and Oneness of the prophets for more information) then it only stands to reason that the religions of the world are one in essence and origin coming from the same God:

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “The term progressive revelation is used to denote the continuous number of prophets, or manifestations of God, that have been sent to the earth as divine educators of mankind. The Reality of the divine Religions is one, because the Reality is one and cannot be two. All the prophets are united in their message, and unshaken. They are like the sun; in different seasons they ascend from different rising points on the horizon. Therefore every ancient prophet gave the glad tidings of the future, and every future has accepted the past.” (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 29)**

“It is the outward practices of religion that are so different, and it is they that cause disputes and enmity -- while the reality is always the same, and one.” (Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 120) “The fundamental basis of the revealed religion of God is immutable, unchanging

throughout the centuries, not subject to the varying conditions of the human world." (Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 275)

CHRISTIANITY: Mark 6:34 "And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things."

The Bahá'í Writings clearly indicate that the overall essence of religion is one, but what do the other religions say on the subject?

In the bible, Christ tells us that he has other sheep not of this fold: Christianity: John 10:16 "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." With this one statement Jesus implies the oneness of religion. He has other sheep not of the fold he is with; the other religions. Christ tells us John 10:16 "Them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd," or there will be one religion with one shepherd overseeing all through the oneness of religion. This is not an indication that Catholics, Protestants and Baptists etc... will all be brought together into one fold, as I have heard some people claim. These different religious sects all belong to the same religion and didn't even exist at the time Christ made this statement. So, it only stands to reason that Christ was talking about Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Judaism etc... which were all other religions that were based on The One over all Creator and Supreme Being. Christianity: Hebrews 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant," Here is, demonstrated to us by Paul that Jesus was that shepherd being spoken of at that time and there is an everlasting covenant including all of the other manifestation of The Creator.

I have also found talk, in other places in the Holy scriptures, indicating that God's prophets have been appearing since the beginning of creation: Christianity: 2 Peter 3:1 "I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:" 3:2 "That ye may be mindful of the

words which were spoken before by the holy prophets," 3:4 "...as they were from the beginning of the creation." Luke 1:70 "He (God) spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:" Acts 3:21 "God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." Hebrews 9:26 "For then must he (Jesus Christ) often have suffered since the foundation of the world: Sirach 36:15 "Give testimony unto those that thou hast possessed from the beginning, and raise up prophets that have been in thy name." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,)

 **ISLAM: 13. "The same religion has He established for you as that which He enjoined on Noah the which We have sent by inspiration to thee and that which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: Namely, that ye should remain steadfast in Religion, and make no divisions therein: to those who worship other things than Allah, hard is the (way) to which thou callest them. Allah (God) chooses to Himself those whom He pleases, and guides to Himself those who turn (to Him)."**

(The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 42)

Muhammad also tells us that all the prophets are paternal brothers and their religion is one:

 **ISLAM: "Allah's Apostle said, "Both in this world and in the Hereafter, I am the nearest of all the people to Jesus, the son of Mary. The prophets are paternal brothers; their mothers are different, but their religion is one."**

(Islam, Hadith, Bukhari Vol 4, Book 55, # 652)

 **ZOROASTRIANISM: 3. "And we worship the former religions of the world devoted to Righteousness which were instituted at the creation, the holy religions of the Creator Ahura Mazda (God), the resplendent and glorious."**

(Zoroaster, The Zend-Avesta, Avesta – Yasna 16)

 **HINDUISM: "I come, and go, and come. When Righteousness Declines, O Bharata! when Wickedness Is strong, I rise, from age to age, and take Visible shape, and move a man with men, Succouring the good, thrusting the evil back, And setting Virtue on her seat again." "As I before have been, So will I be again for thee; with lightened heart behold! Once more I am thy Krishna, the form thou knew'st of old!"**

(Hindu, Bhagavad Gita (Edwin Arnold tr) chapters 4 and 9)

 **BUDDHISM: "I am not the first Buddha who came upon earth, nor shall I be the last. In due time another Buddha will arise.... He shall reveal to you the same eternal truths which I have taught you. He will preach to you His religion, glorious in its origin, glorious at the climax and glorious at the goal, in the spirit and in the letter." [1 Sermon of the Great Passing.] "I am known by uncounted trillions of names. They address me by different names not realizing that they are all names of the one Tathagata. Some recognize me as Tathagata, some as The Self-existent One, some as Gautama the Ascetic, some as Buddha. (Buddha, Lankavatara Sutra)**

 **SABEANISM: "In the Name of the Great Life (God). Vines shone in the water And in the Jordan mighty they grew. Ye are flourishing offshoots. Messengers hither I bring you." "Establishing Your likeness and giving us light, Let your radiance shine upon us." (Sabeanism, Ginza Rba- chapters 177 and 382, The religion of Adam, the father of mankind, the one many believe to be the first created man.)**

As Bahá'ís, Bahá'í Faith: "We believe in the Oneness and Singleness of God, and that He manifests Himself through chosen ones from time to time, in various degrees of light and power, as His Great Mercy takes pity upon the needs and conditions of men. Whoever the Manifestor may be, we worship the One God, and we acknowledge the

Manifestation, when we witness His evident Signs, the greatest of which is the POWER OF HIS WORD."

(Misc Baha'i, Thorton Chase - Before Abraham Was I am, p. 9)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." In the Bahá'í Faith we believe that Adam was, not only the father of mankind, but he was a messenger from God doing God's bidding on this earth. This is one explanation to Paul's statement "The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." The message from the manifestations of God has been one and this message all relates back to the one God. So you could therefore say that Adam was the first messenger from God because that Adam brought God's message to the world. With this reasoning in mind it makes sense that Paul would say that "The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit," because the first messenger brought the message from God to mankind and the last messenger also brought the message from the same God to man. Hence the statement found in Revelations "the beginning and the end:"**
Revelations 22:13 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." What we believe this means as Bahá'ís is that all of the manifestations of God are one in their being, one in their goals and one in God. So, no matter what name they are going by at the time all the manifestations teachings lead back to the one and only God.

If we look further in the bible and the other religions we can see the oneness of religion at work through progressive revelation by following the progression of the holy covenant God has made with man through his divine prophets throughout the ages.

 **SABEANISM: "And it was revealed to me (?) and to all of them in this book, and they acted upon this reliable baser acting according to this (its) light and removing nothing from this writing of great revelation that was given to Adam the first man.' 'And Thou hast**

spoken to us with Thy Word And hast commanded us with Thy commandment - Be My glory and I will be your Glory. Be my light and I will be your Light. And my name shall be in your mouths And I will be with you'. Thou art He who over-throwest (false) gods in their high-places And bringest reproach on the divinity of (false) deities." This is an agreement, or covenant, The Great First Life (God) made with Adam the father of mankind and humanity. "Any man who is not steadfast (in thought) Whose mind is turned against Me, Whose mind is turned from Me (My laws and My commandments, covenant), Great and not small will be his hurt." (Sabeanism, Ginza Rba- chapter 75 and 89)

After Adam who began the Adamic cycle God made a covenant with Noah:

A. (Noah) Genesis 6:18 "But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee." Genesis 9:1 "And God blessed Noah and his sons," Genesis 9:9 "And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;"

B. (Abraham) Genesis 15:18 "In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:" Genesis 17:7 "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee."

C. (Krishna) "I will give to thee that by which I am this world! He said, 'Yes.' (He replied), 'Let us make a compact (covenant); let Me enter thee.' 'If thou dost enter Me, in what way wilt thou enjoy Me?' 'I will kindle thee; I will enter thee for thine enjoyment.'"

(Hindu, Vedas, Yajur Veda - Kanda II)

D. (Moses) Exodus 2:24 "And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob." Exodus 19:5 "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all

people: for all the earth is mine:" Exodus 24:7 "And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient." Exodus 34:28 "And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments."

E. (Zoroaster) 14. "O Zarathushtra, what righteous man is thy friend for the great covenant? Who wills to have good fame? It is the Kava Vishtaspa at the consummation. Those whom thou wilt unite in one house with thee, these will I call with words of Good Thought."

(The Zend-Avesta, Avesta – Yasna 48)

F. (Buddha) 20. "Making the effort is your affair. The Buddhas have pointed out the Way. Those who are on the way and practicing meditation will be freed from Mara's bonds." 18. "Make yourself an island; work hard; be wise. When your impurities are purged and you are free from guilt, you will enter into the heavenly world." ((God, through Buddha, is telling man if you live by the right path then we will enter heaven (God's eternal covenant with man in promised redemption taught through Buddha)).

(Buddhist, Dhammapada - Sayings of the Buddha 1 and 2 (tr. J. Richards))

G. (Jesus Christ) Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts." Hebrews 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;" Hebrews 12:24 "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel." Hebrews 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"

H. (Muhammad) 7. “And remember We took from the Prophets their Covenant as (We did) from thee: from Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus the son of Mary: We took from them a solemn Covenant:” 67. “For every Message is a limit of time,”

(The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 6 and 33)

(Muhammad) 40. “O children of Israel! call to mind the (special) favor which I bestowed upon you, and fulfill your Covenant with Me as I fulfill My Covenant with you and fear none but Me.”

(Islam, The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 2)

(Muhammad) 81. “Behold! Allah took the Covenant of the Prophets, saying: ‘I give you a Book and Wisdom; then comes to you a Messenger confirming what is with you; do ye believe him and render him help.’ Allah said: ‘Do ye agree, and take this My Covenant as binding on you?’ They said: ‘We agree.’ He said: ‘Then bear witness, and I am with you among the witnesses.’”

(The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 3)

I-J. (The Bab and Baha’u’llah) “His Holiness Christ made a covenant concerning the Paraclete and gave the tidings of His coming. His Holiness the Prophet Muhammad made a covenant concerning His Holiness (the Bab) and the Bab was the One promised by Muhammad, for Muhammad gave the tidings of His coming. The Bab made a Covenant concerning the (Blessed Beauty of Bahá'u'lláh) and gave the glad-tidings of His coming for the Blessed Beauty was the One promised by His Holiness the Bab. Bahá'u'lláh made a covenant concerning a promised One who will become manifest after one thousand or thousands of years. He likewise, with His Supreme Pen, entered into a great Covenant and Testament with all the Bahá'ís whereby they were all commanded to follow the Center of the Covenant after His departure, and turn not away even to a hair's breadth from obeying Him.”

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 358)

God made and loves all mankind: Christianity: Acts 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" Acts 17:25 "Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;" Acts 17:26 "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;" If God made all nations of men one blood it only stands to reason that He would send His Holy Messengers to educate all mankind not just one group of men. So with one God we have one religion made up of the various religions, which will eventually come together into one fold.

BAHA'I FAITH: "God has created us, one and all -- why do we act in opposition to His wishes, when we are all His children, and love the same Father? All these divisions we see on all sides, all these disputes and opposition, are caused because men cling to ritual and outward observances, and forget the simple, underlying truth. It is the outward practices of religion that are so different, and it is they that cause disputes and enmity -- while the reality is always the same, and one. The Reality is the Truth, and truth has no division. Truth is God's guidance, it is the light of the world, it is love, it is mercy. These attributes of truth are also human virtues inspired by the Holy Spirit."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 120)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The gift of God to this enlightened age is the knowledge of the oneness of mankind and of the fundamental oneness of religion."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 19)

(For more information see progressive revelation).

and

(More writings such as these can be seen in the website www.onenessofreligions.com and the charity website www.universalconcord.com go take a look if the unity of these other writings interests you or look in my other books)

Don't be oppressive to one another.

283. Don't be oppressive to one another: One of the teachings we find in the Bahá'í Faith is that we should not oppress one another. Bahá'í Faith: "No one should glorify himself over another; no one should manifest pride or superiority toward another; no one should look upon another with scorn and contempt; and no one should deprive or oppress a fellow creature."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 63)

This is also a teaching found in Christianity. In Christianity we find the prohibition of oppression of one another very clearly stated especially in the writings of The Old Testament: Judaism: Exodus 22:21 "Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." Leviticus 25:17 "Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the LORD your God." Deuteronomy 24:14 "Thou shalt not oppress a hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates:" Proverbs 3:31 "Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways." Isaiah 1:17 "Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." Jeremiah 22:3 "Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "THERE is no paradise, in the estimation of the believers in the Divine Unity, more exalted than to obey God's commandments, and there is no fire in the eyes of those who have known God and His signs, fiercer than to transgress His laws and to oppress another soul, even to the extent of a mustard seed."**

(The Bab, Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 79)

In the writings of The New Testament we find the prohibition of oppression of one another is not so directly stated, but it is more or less implied in the words of Jesus that we should do no harm to one another and we should be good to one another and not oppress or be a burden to one another: ✝ Christianity: Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you (oppress you);" 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Christ also tells us: Luke 6:31 "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them." In other words, oppress not, or persecute not others, as you yourself would not like to be oppressed or persecuted. And, we find that The Apostle Paul also echoes these words of Christ to the people: Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" Romans 12:13 "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality." Romans 12:14 "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not." (oppress you, so oppress not) Romans 12:15 "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Romans 12:16 "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." Romans 12:17 "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." Romans 12:18 "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Live peaceably, with all men, and oppress not one another. Romans 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it

is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Romans 12:20 "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink." Romans 12:21 "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be ye kind fathers, and to the unfortunate a refuge and shelter. To the poor be a treasure of wealth, and to the sick a remedy and healing. Be a helper of every oppressed one, the protector of every destitute one, be ye ever mindful to serve any soul of mankind. Attach no importance to self-seeking, rejection, arrogance, oppression and enmity. Heed them not."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 216)

Original Sin.

284. Original Sin. This whole concept of there being an original sin has been a source of consternation amongst many believers in Christ who feel it just doesn't make sense the way it is being taught. The belief amongst many Christians is that God has held all of humanity responsible and accountable for this sin that Eve and Adam preformed in the Garden of Eden by the partaking of the forbidden fruit. It is believed by some that all people before Jesus Christ were doomed to exist in hell or the grave regardless of how they lived their lives. That means that prophets such as Abraham and Moses were condemned to suffer alongside the lowest criminals of the earth just because they were born before Jesus' time. Some people say this is just the way of God's justice.

If we look though, we will find that most of man's law with all of its problems is not so unjust, as to put children in jail for the sins of their fathers, and the people who would are considered tyrants in this world who don't hold to true justice. People ask yourselves, how can we attribute such injustices and drastic actions as these to a God who

created all of us and tells us He loves us and who is mercy and justice incarnate?

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This is far from the justice of God. If Adam was a sinner, what is the sin of Abraham? What is the fault of Isaac, or of Joseph? Of what is Moses guilty?"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 120)

What I say to this is let us put this particular belief away before we go on any further. Judaism: Genesis 31:54 "Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount." Exodus 30:10 "And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD." Leviticus 16:34 "And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses."

God allowed mankind to atone for their sins thereby receiving forgiveness for their sins. I only used a few references here but the Old Testament is full of such things going all the way back to Cain and Abel if one cares to look. For other references to hell and the original sin and being left in the grave (see There are some people who believe that everyone before Christ was stuck in hell or stuck in a grave when they died).

Now I realize that there are places in the bible where God tells us that He visits the sins of fathers onto their sons for several generations Judaism: Exodus 34:7 "Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."

This makes sense in a way if we look at this with unclouded eyes. Things we do, decisions we make, can affect our children and their children and so forth for many generations to come, but that doesn't mean we are being punished personally for something our fathers did that we are innocent of. It just means that our lives are being affected by the decisions our parents made that affect the whole family which could be for several generations. It doesn't mean we are being punished personally for our father's sins. God forbid!

God has been accepting offerings from man and forgiving our sins from the very beginning. Genesis 4:3 "And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD." Genesis 4:4 "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:" Genesis 4:5 "But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect." Here we see offerings made to please God from Cain and Abel right from the very beginning. We also see God through Cain telling us that remission of sin is involved here. Genesis 4:7 "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." Here God hints that sin and sacrificial offerings coincide and if we don't do well there is sin upon us, Genesis 4:7 "if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." In other words, if we don't do well in our lives we live in sin. God equates the sacrifice of the lives of animals, which is acceptable for forgiveness of sin in His eyes over the fruit of the ground, which is not acceptable for forgiveness of sin in His eyes. So, if we look at what we recorded earlier, Genesis 31:54, Exodus 30:10, Leviticus 16:34 and now Genesis 4:7 God's discourse with Cain, I think we can see a pattern emerging here. God is not damming all souls to hell He is allowing atonement through sacrifice to wash their sins away so that when they died they could go to Him clean.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This attachment of the soul and spirit to the human world, which is sin, was inherited by the descendants of Adam, and is the serpent which is always in the midst of, and at enmity with, the spirits and the descendants of Adam."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 124)

If one needs further proof that this is true we only need to reflect on the story of Lazarus and the rich man spoken of by Jesus Christ. Lazarus died and was taken away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. ✝ Christianity: Luke 16:22 "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;" Luke 16:23 "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." Here we can see from Jesus Christ's own words that we go on some to heaven some to hell when we die. We know this because we see that Abraham is already there in heaven in Jesus Christ's story, and Jesus hasn't yet died for our sins. So, again I state we were not condemned to hell or purgatory when we died before the time of Jesus and we know this from Christ's very own words. He establishes this truth in the bible for us.

Now then, getting back to this whole concept of the original sin: If we look throughout the entire bible and read every statement in the entire book that deals with sin one of the first things we will notice is that we will not find this concept being taught once by Jesus, his disciples or anywhere in the Old Testament. This whole concept of there being an original sin comes from Paul and it is found throughout most of Romans chapter 5 for those who want to look it up and read the whole chapter for themselves. Paul makes the statement that by one man sin entered the world and he equates death with sin. ✝ Christianity: Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" So some people who read this statement interpret it to mean that by Adam's actions sin and death were passed on to all of us, but it states that death was passed unto them and that men are sinning for themselves now, not that they are being held accountable for Adam and Eve's original sin, and we also need to realize that what Paul is saying is symbolic for spiritual occurrences in the real world. Example: Adam was told that if he ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would surely die, ✡ Judaism: Genesis 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou

shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." But when they ate of the tree of knowledge they didn't die Genesis 3:6 "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat." Genesis 3:7 "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

BAHA'I FAITH: "All sin comes from the demands of nature, and these demands, which arise from the physical qualities, are not sins with respect to the animals, while for man they are sin. The animal is the source of imperfections, such as anger, sensuality, jealousy, avarice, cruelty, pride: all these defects are found in animals but do not constitute sins. But in man they are sins."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 119)

They did not die a physical death as they thought. Their eyes were opened spiritually after they ate of the tree of knowledge and they suddenly knew what sin was, and this is what Paul is saying. Paul is not saying sin didn't exist in the world before they ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge what he is saying is that the knowledge of right from wrong didn't yet exist in the world until Adam and Eve ate of the fruit. Christianity: Romans 5:13 "For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law." Before the knowledge of the law, Paul clearly states, people didn't know what sinning was and it took Adam opening their eyes to sin and the knowledge of right and wrong before mankind could act on it.

BAHA'I FAITH: "If it were not for sin how would you appreciate virtue? If evil deeds were unknown how could you commend good actions?"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 78)

So, there was no original sin for all mankind to be punished for, there was just the lack of knowledge of what sin was and Adam opened our eyes to it.  Judaism: Genesis 3:22 "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:" Genesis 3:23 "Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden," So, there was no original sin, but the question remains, does God really punish the innocent for the sins of others? Numbers 16:22 "And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?" 16:25 "And Moses rose up...." 16:26 "And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of their's lest ye be consumed in all their sins."

 **JUDAISM: Exodus 32:31 "And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold." Exodus 32:32 "Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written." Exodus 32:33 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." Here God states, through Moses, that he will only hold accountable those who have sinned against Him and not the innocent. And if there is still any question about God not holding the innocent accountable for the sins of others Moses tells us Deuteronomy 24:16 "The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin." And Ezekiel tells us the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father and the father shall not bear the iniquity of the son: Ezekiel 18:20 "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "They say that Adam disobeyed the command of God and partook of the fruit of the forbidden tree, thereby committing a sin which was transmitted as a heritage to His posterity. They teach**

that because of Adam's sin all His descendants have, likewise, committed transgression and have become responsible through inheritance; that, consequently, all mankind deserves punishment and must make retribution; and that God sent forth His Son as a sacrifice in order that man might be forgiven and the human race delivered from the consequences of Adam's transgression."

"We wish to consider these statements from the standpoint of reason. Could we conceive of the Divinity, Who is Justice itself, inflicting punishment upon the posterity of Adam for Adam's own sin and disobedience? Even if we should see a governor, an earthly ruler punishing a son for the wrongdoing of his father, we would look upon that ruler as an unjust man. Granted the father committed a wrong, what was the wrong committed by the son? There is no connection between the two. Adam's sin was not the sin of His posterity, especially as Adam is a thousand generations back of the man today. If the father of a thousand generations committed a sin, is it just to demand that the present generation should suffer the consequences thereof?"

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 449)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If Adam sinned by going near the forbidden tree, what was the sin of the glorious Abraham, and what was the error of Moses the Interlocutor? What was the crime of Noah the Prophet? What was the transgression of Joseph the Truthful? What was the iniquity of the Prophets of God, and what was the trespass of John the Chaste? Would the justice of God have allowed these enlightened Manifestations, on account of the sin of Adam, to find torment in hell until Christ came and by the sacrifice of Himself saved them from excruciating tortures? Such an idea is beyond every law and rule and cannot be accepted by any intelligent person."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 125)

Overlook the faults of others.

285. We are told in the religion of God to overlook the faults of others: This is a pretty much universal teaching found in all the writings of God when we look for it. ✝ Christianity: Matthew 7:1 "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Matthew 7:2 "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Matthew 7:3 "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?" Matthew 7:4 "Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?" ✡ Judaism: Song of Solomon 1:6 "Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me." 2 Esdras, 4 Ezra 8: 26 "Look not upon the sins of thy people." "Regard not the wicked inventions of the heathen." "Think not upon those that have walked feignedly before thee:" (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)

BAHA'I FAITH: "He, verily, is the All-Bountiful, the Gracious, the Most High. If any differences arise amongst you, behold Me standing before your face, and overlook the faults of one another for My name's sake and as a token of your love for My manifest and resplendent Cause. We love to see you at all times consorting in amity and concord within the paradise of My good-pleasure, and to inhale from your acts the fragrance of friendliness and unity, of loving-kindness and fellowship."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 315)

Parables in the writings of God.

286. Parables in the writings of God. In the Bahá'í faith we understand that in the past God has spoken to man through His prophets and messengers in symbols and what is known as parables. ✝ Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit," John tells us; and since God is a spirit or of the spirit, it stands to reason that God's messengers

would talk to our distant ancestors in a more primitive form of language due to earlier man's lack of understanding of the world around him. In the past man has been unable to grasp certain spiritual truths and the manifestations of God, like Christ, have felt the need to talk to mankind in symbols and parables to get God's message across to a simpler form of man. Christ tells us this through John, ✝ Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John tells us that we must worship God in spirit; which means, for one thing, we need to look for the spiritual truths in God's holy word not just accept everything at face value, thereby missing the deeper spiritual intent hidden within the words. John 4:23 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." ✡ Judaism: Hosea 12:9 "And I that am the LORD thy God," Hosea 12:10 "I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions and used similitude's, (analogies) by the ministry of the prophets."

Many Bahá'ís feel that by God speaking to man in this cryptic language man has failed to see the true meaning of the word hidden within the words, which is one of the reasons for much of the dissention and lack of understanding and disunity throughout the major world religions of today. Because of man's lack of spiritual understanding of the word, it has caused mankind to fail to see the essential oneness and unity of the world religions for himself (see Oneness of religion for more information). ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 29:4 "Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day." We find that Moses, as early as in Deuteronomy, hints at man's lack of spiritual insight into God's holy word, which Christ later refers to in John. ✝ Christianity: John 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." John 5:47 "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" Christ, in John, confirms what Moses had already warned the people about, that they were not seeing the whole truth, but were blind to the inner meaning of the word.

✡ Judaism Isaiah 6:9 "And He said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not."

Isaiah, out right, states that man is not seeing the true meaning of God's holy word; and we have to ask ourselves, why are the teachings of so many religions expressed largely in symbols, parables and metaphors and not in the plain language of the people?

BAHA'I FAITH: "Divine things are too deep to be expressed by common words. The heavenly teachings are expressed in parable in order to be understood and preserved for ages to come."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 79)

CHRISTIANITY: John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." These are Christ's very own words; the words he speaks are spirit, or spiritual, which means they need to be understood spiritually and not just literally. This only reinforces our understanding that Christ is speaking to the people in a symbolic language that takes effort on our part to understand. We can't just take everything we read in the scriptures at face value, we need to try and understand the deeper hidden meaning if we want to know the whole spiritual truth. Judaism: Isaiah 6:10 "Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed." Isaiah 44:18 "They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand." Isaiah hints that some of the reasoning behind God's messenger's usage of symbols, parables and metaphors may be to separate out the spiritually enlightened from the spiritually blind and possibly distinguish between the good people and the bad people.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know verily that the purpose underlying all these symbolic terms and abstruse allusions, which emanate from the Revealers of God's holy Cause, hath been to test and prove the peoples of the world; that thereby the earth of the pure and illuminated hearts may be known from the perishable and barren soil." (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 49)

"Know, moreover, that it is through such words that God proveth His servants and sifteth them, separating the believer from the infidel, the detached from the worldly, the pious from the profligate, the doer of good from the worker of iniquity, and so forth. Thus hath the Dove of holiness proclaimed: 'Do men think when they say 'We believe' they shall be let alone and not be put to proof?'" (Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries)

JUDAISM: Isaiah 32:3 "And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken." Isaiah only confirms here that God's word has a hidden element in it that is used to separate out the spiritually enlightened people from those individuals that are spiritually blind. Jeremiah 5:21 "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:" Jeremiah reiterates what Moses, John and Isaiah are saying: Isaiah 42:18 "Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see." It takes effort on the part of man to see the spirit in the words of God: Christianity: John 6:63 "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Nothing worthwhile comes without effort on our part. Judaism: Ezekiel 12:2 "Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house." Christianity: Matthew 13:13 "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The generality of mankind are unable to grasp a sequence of logical arguments. For this reason they stand in need of symbols and parables." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 84) "Let us acquire a new intelligence in order to interpret the symbols and become acquainted with the mysteries." (Bahá'í Faith, Divine Philosophy, p. 36)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 13:14 "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias (Isaiah), which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and

shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:" 1 Corinthians 2:10 "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Corinthians 2:11 "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God." 1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." Matthew 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." Matthew 13:16 "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear." Matthew 13:17 "For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them." Matthew 13:34 "All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:" Matthew 13:35 "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Consider how the parable makes attainment dependent upon capacity. Unless capacity is developed, the summons of the Kingdom cannot reach the ear, the light of the Sun of Truth will not be observed, and the fragrances of the rose garden of inner significance will be lost."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 149)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 4:2 "And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine," Mark 4:11 "And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:" Mark 4:3 "Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:"**

Mark 4:4 “And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.” Mark 4:5 “And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:” Mark 4:6 “But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.” Mark 4:7 “And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.” Mark 4:8 “And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.” Mark 4:9 “And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” Mark 4:10 “And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.” Mark 4:11 “And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:” Mark 4:12 “That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.” Mark 4:13 “And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?” Mark 4:14 “The sower soweth the word.” Mark 4:15 “And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.” Mark 4:16 “And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;” Mark 4:17 “And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.” Mark 4:18 “And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,” Mark 4:19 “And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.” Mark 4:20 “And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.” Mark 4:33 “And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.” Mark 4:34 “But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.”

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whatever proceeded from the tongue of the Son was revealed in parables, whilst He Who proclaimeth the Truth in this Day speaketh without them. Take heed lest thou cling to the cord of idle fancy and withhold thyself from that which hath been ordained in the Kingdom of God, the Almighty, the All-Bountiful."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 6:39 "And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?" Luke 6:40 "The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master." Luke 12:16 "And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:" Luke 12:17 "And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?" Luke 12:18 "And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods." Luke 12:19 "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." Luke 12:20 "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Luke 12:21 "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:22 "And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on." Luke 12:23 "The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment." Christ spoke a great many parables in his day, more in Matthew, Mark and Luke then the rest of the whole bible put together. Most of what he said was directed to an audience that could not perceive the meaning of what he was saying: Luke 8:10 "And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand." Christ clearly indicates that his words, in parables, act like a sieve separating out the spiritually seeing from the spiritually blind, thereby separating the people of the world from the people of the spirit, preparing the people who will follow Him for the next life.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "A humanity which has come of age can respond to a directness of teaching that goes beyond the language of parable and allegory; faith is a matter not of blind belief, but of conscious knowledge."**

(Baha'i International Community, 1992 May 29, Statement on Baha'u'llah, p. 5)

Honor thy parents.

287. Honor thy parents. In the bible Moses and Jesus both place great emphasis on the children to honor their parents: Judaism: Exodus 20:12 "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." Leviticus 20:9 "For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood shall be upon him." This principle of honoring one's parents is stressed so highly in the Holy Scriptures that it was a sentence of death for the children to disrespect their parents. Deuteronomy 5:16 "Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." Mainly Christ and Moses stress the honoring of one's parents not the punishment that goes with the disrespect of one's parents. This principle of honoring one's parents is also found in the writings of the Bahá'í Faith:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "As did previous Messengers of God, Bahá'u'lláh asks His followers to honor their parents."**

(Baha'i International Community, 1992, Magazine - The Baha'is)

JUDAISM: Proverbs 20:20 "Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness." Christianity: Matthew 15:4 "For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and,

He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death." Christ and Solomon both stress the respect one should have for one's parents. Matthew 19:19 "Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Children Show honor to your parents and pay homage to them. This will cause blessings to descend upon you from the clouds of the bounty of your Lord, the Exalted, the Great."**

(Compilations, NSA USA - Developing Distinctive Baha'i Communities)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 10:19 "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother." The honoring of the parents is so important that God made it one of the ten commandments. Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Ephesians 6:2 "Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise)" Paul considers the honoring of one's parents to be one of the very greatest commandments of the book of God.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Beware lest ye commit that which would sadden the hearts of your fathers and mothers. Follow ye the path of Truth which indeed is a straight path. Should anyone give you a choice between the opportunity to render a service to Me and a service to them, choose ye to serve them, and let such service be a path leading you to Me. This is My exhortation and command unto thee. Observe therefore that which thy Lord, the Mighty, the Gracious, hath prescribed unto thee."**

(Bahá'u'lláh: Ibid, Compilations, Lights of Guidance)

Patients.

288. Patients is one of the teachings found in the writing of God. We need to learn patients to progress in the worlds of God, and we need to be patient with God's divine will and allow it to reveal itself to us in our lives: Judaism: Psalms 37:7 "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him." Psalms 37:9 "For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth." Psalms 40:1 "I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry." Ecclesiastes 7:8 "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." Lamentations 3:25 "The LORD is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him." Lamentations 3:26 "It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD." Sirach 1:23 "A patient man will tear for a time, and afterward joy shall Spring up unto him." 2:4 "Whatsoever is brought upon thee take cheerfully, and be patient when thou art changed to a low estate. (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,)

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 21:19 "In your patience possess ye your souls." Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" Romans 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" Romans 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" Colossians 1:11 "Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;" 1 Thessalonians 1:3 "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;" 1 Thessalonians 5:14 "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men." 2 Timothy 2:24 "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient," 2:25 "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;" 2:26 "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He that dwelleth therein, firm and expecting a reward from God -- exalted be He -- God will write down for him, until the Day of Resurrection, the recompense of such as have been patient, and have stood up, and knelt down, and prostrated themselves, before Him.**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 178)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God will add unto the recompense with which He shall reward Us, for having sustained with persevering patience the tribulations We have suffered. He, verily, shall increase the reward of them that endure with patience."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 128)

We need to be patient in this world one with another.

289. We need to be patient in this world one with another: Patience is a virtue and we need to learn patience with one another in order for matters, in this life, to work out in accordance with desirable actions and consequences. The Bahá'í writings tell us that people are not perfect and we should have patience, with one another, and make allowances for imperfections, because people are not perfect; but are on the road to perfection through our adherence to the writings of God. So, we are to be patient and overlook the flaws of others and be concerned with our own flaws and our own ongoing progress along the road to perfection.

Meanwhile, we should also try to help other people overcome their flaws with loving patience. Christianity: Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" Romans 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" Romans 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" 1 Thessalonians 5:14 "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men." Hebrews

12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a (crowd) of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,” James 1:2 “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;” James 1:3 “Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.” James 1:4 “But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” James 5:7 “Be patient therefore, brethren,” James 5:8 “Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts:” Luke 21:19 “In your patience possess ye your souls.” ✡ Judaism: Sirach 5:10 “Be stedfast in thy understanding; and let thy word be the same. Be swift to hear; and let thy life be sincere; and with patience give answer, if thou hast understanding.” (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Sirach 1:23 “A patient man will tear for a time, and afterward joy shall Spring up unto him.” 2:4 “Whatsoever is brought upon thee take cheerfully, and be patient when thou art changed to a low estate. (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) Sirach 29:8 “Have thou patience with a man in poor estate, and delay not to shew him mercy.” (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Psalms 37:7 “Wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.” Ecclesiastes 7:8 “Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.”

BAHA’I FAITH: “Aided by the hosts of wisdom, of utterance, of exhortations and understanding, they (Baha’u’llah’s followers) have all seized and taken fast hold of the firm cord of patience and of the shining hem of fortitude,” (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 71) “By the righteousness of God! Such hath been the patience, the calm, the resignation and contentment of this people that they have become the exponents of justice, and so great hath been their forbearance, that they have suffered themselves to be killed rather than kill, and this notwithstanding that these whom the world hath wronged have endured tribulations the like of which the history of the world hath never recorded, nor the eyes of any nation witnessed.” (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 74)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “It is not through lip-service only that the elect of God have attained to holiness, but by patient lives of active service they have brought light into the world.” (Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 80) “It behooveth whosoever hath set his face towards the Most Sublime Horizon to cleave tenaciously unto the cord of patience, and to put his reliance in God, the Help in Peril, the Unconstrained. O ye loved ones of God!” (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 98)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “We must be patient with each other, and realize that each one of us has some faults to overcome, of one kind or another.”**

(Bahá’í Faith, Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 529)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Wherefore, O my loving friends! Consort with all the peoples, kindreds and religions of the world with the utmost truthfulness, uprightness, faithfulness, kindliness, good-will and friendliness; that all the world of being may be filled with the holy ecstasy of the grace of Baha, that ignorance, enmity, hate and rancor may vanish from the world and the darkness of estrangement amidst the peoples and kindreds of the world may give way to the Light of Unity.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 445)

Peace on earth.

290. The coming of Peace on earth.  **Bahá’í Faith: “Bahá'u'lláh declared the coming of the Most Great Peace. All the nations and peoples will come under the shadow of the Tent of the Great Peace and Harmony -- that is to say, by general election a Great Board of Arbitration shall be established, to settle all differences and quarrels between the Powers; so that disputes shall not end in war.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 28)

As Bahá'ís we read in the writings that the Bahá'í faith will eventually bring about that age old promise, made in the bible and the other religions of God, of world peace. Here, for example, we are told by Ezekiel that God is going to make a covenant with mankind to have everlasting peace on this earth: Judaism: Ezekiel 37:26 "Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.'" Those individuals that are Bahá'ís believe that this promise, The Creator made to Ezekiel, is slowly in the process of coming true.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Discord will change to accord, dissension to unison. The roots of malevolence will be torn out, the basis of aggression destroyed. The bright rays of union will obliterate the darkness of limitations, and the splendours of heaven will make the human heart to be even as a mine veined richly with the love of God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 19)

It needs to be understood that this is not just an idle dream, but the fulfillment of promises made in the bible in both the Old and the New Testaments. Judaism: Psalms 29:11 "The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace." Psalms 37:11 "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Psalms 76:9 ".....God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth." Isaiah 2:4 "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." This statement hints at the formation and establishment of the Great Board of Arbitration that Bahá'u'lláh promises is to come, which shall judge among the nations of the earth and rebuke the peoples of the earth for their unscrupulous actions towards one another.

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 9:7 "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever." Isaiah 32:17 "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." Isaiah 32:18 "And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;" Isaiah 54:10 "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee." Micah 4: 3 "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." This statement also hints at the formation and establishment of the Great Board of Arbitration which shall be elected of the world and shall settle the differences of the world nations so that disputes don't end in war.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "As the East and the West are illumined by one sun, so all races, nations, and creeds shall be seen as the servants of the One God. The whole earth is one home, and all peoples, did they but know it, are bathed in the oneness of God's mercy. God created all. He gives sustenance to all. He guides and trains all under the shadow of his bounty. We must follow the example God Himself gives us, and do away with all disputations and quarrels."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 38)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 6:9 "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Matthew 6:10 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."**  **Judaism: Isaiah 26:12 "LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us." Isaiah 54:13 "And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of**

thy children." ✝ Christianity: Romans 10:15 "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" 1 Corinthians 7:15 "God hath called us to peace."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When perfect equality shall be established between men and women, peace may be realized for the simple reason that womankind in general will never favor warfare. Women will not be willing to allow those whom they have so tenderly cared for to go to the battlefield."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 167)

Cast not your pearls before swine.

191. Cast not your pearls before swine: The messengers of God tell us that we should not spend our precious time in trying to teach the unenlightened ones of the earth, but kick the dust off our feet and go on: ✝ Christianity: Mark 6:11 "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them." We are also not supposed to reveal God's teachings to the blind ones of the earth: Matthew 7:6 "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." ✹Bahá'í Faith: "The wise are they that speak not unless they obtain a hearing, even as the cup-bearer, who proffereth not his cup till he findeth a seeker, and the lover who crieth not out from the depths of his heart until he gazeth upon the beauty of his beloved. Wherefore sow the seeds of wisdom and knowledge in the pure soil of the heart, and keep them hidden, till the hyacinths of divine wisdom spring from the heart and not from mire and clay." (Bahá'í Faith, The Persian Hidden Words)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 12:23 "A prudent man concealeth knowledge' 29:11 "A wise man keepeth it in till afterwards," When you know whether God's word will be accepted.**

BAHA'I FAITH: "Beware lest ye scatter the pearls of inner significance before every barren, dumb one. Verily, the blind are deprived of witnessing the lights and are unable to distinguish between the stone and the holy, precious pearl."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Tablet of the Branch - from BWF)

We need to try and be perfect.

292. We need to try and be perfect; to strive for perfection in our lives: The writings of the various religions tell us we need to strive after spiritual perfection in our lives, here on this planet. We need to try and make ourselves more like our creator. Judaism: Deuteronomy 18:13 "Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God." 3 Kings 8:61 "Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day." Christianity: Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" 3:17 "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Corinthians 13:11 "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Only by improving spiritually as well as materially can we make any real progress, and become perfect beings. It was in order to bring this spiritual life and light into the world that all the great Teachers have appeared. They came so that the Sun of Truth might be manifested, and shine in the hearts of men, and that through its wondrous power men might attain unto Everlasting Light."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 63)

BAHA'I FAITH: "We must strive with energies of heart, soul and mind to develop and manifest the perfections and virtues latent within

the realities of the phenomenal world, for the human reality may be compared to a seed. If we sow the seed, a mighty tree appears from it. The virtues of the seed are revealed in the tree; it puts forth branches, leaves, blossoms, and produces fruits. All these virtues were hidden and potential in the seed. Through the blessing and bounty of cultivation these virtues became apparent. Similarly the merciful God our creator has deposited within human realities certain virtues latent and potential. Through education and culture, these virtues deposited by the loving God will become apparent in the human reality even as the unfoldment of the tree from within the germinating seed."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 267)

God's messengers and chosen ones are persecuted.

293. <u>God's messengers and chosen ones are persecuted</u>. One of the signs that a manifestation is from God is the persecution they and their followers are put under by the clergy of their time and the people who are just following the example of the clergy. This happened during the time of Christ, it happened during the time of Muhammad and it happened during the time of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh, and it is still happening to numerous Bahá'ís in various locations around the world today. Now I won't say that persecution of the believers is a direct evidence that the messenger is from God, but the amount of the persecution and the severity of the persecution is a pretty good indicator that the message and the prophet are from God.
<u>Christianity</u>: <u>John</u> 16:2 "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Men are killing their brothers, believing this to be the cause of salvation, believing that such work is approved by God, believing that those whom they kill will be sent to hell."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 101)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 13:21 "tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word," Mark 4:17 "affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake," John 15:18 "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also." Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:11 "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." Matthew 5:12 "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Luke 6:22 "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake." Luke 6:23 "Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets." 2 Timothy 1:8 "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;" 2 Timothy 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 4:5 "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." Philippians 1:29 "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;" Acts 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Jews were expecting the appearance of the Messiah, looking forward to it with devotion of heart and soul but because they were submerged in imitations they did not believe in His Holiness Jesus Christ when he appeared. Finally they rose against Him even to the extreme of persecution and shedding His blood. Had they investigated reality they would have accepted their promised Messiah."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 238)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 8:36 "As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 2 Corinthians 11:24 "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one." 2 Corinthians 11:25 "Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;"**

And finally Mark warns of the future:

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 13:19 "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Báb was born in Shiraz, in the month of October, 1819. At the age of twenty-four he heralded the advent of a universal teacher whom God would manifest, and through whom the unity of all nations would be established. The Báb (door or gate) effected a reformation of Islam, opening the way for a broader movement -- for always with earnestness and zeal he cried of one who was to come after him to illumine not only Islam, but the whole world. The young reformer made his declaration in 1844 at Shiraz and afterward at Mecca, where one hundred thousand people had congregated."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "His teachings met with instant opposition on the part of the orthodox religionists of the day. After two years he was imprisoned and held a prisoner until 1850 when he was shot in the public square of Tabriz."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "But physical torture and death were ineffectual to stop the onsweep of the reformation inaugurated by the Báb. When, some years later, BAHA'U'LLAH arose as the one who was expected, thousands accepted him and at once came under his banner.**

BAHA'U'LLAH was not personally related to the Báb, nor had he ever seen him, though he became one of the first disciples of the Báb's teachings."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Dreadful persecution ensued and more than twenty thousand martyrs joyfully gave up property and life rather than renounce the faith which they recognized as divine truth. At such variance were his teachings with the creed-bound world about him that BAHA'U'LLAH, with his family and followers, was banished to Bagdad, to Constantinople, to Adrianople and finally to the penal colony of Akká in Syria."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 5)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Galatians 4:29 "But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now." 1 Peter 3:14 "If ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;" 1 Peter 4:12 "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:" 1 Peter 4:13 "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." 1 Peter 4:14 "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified." 1 Peter 4:16 "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." 1 Peter 4:17 "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"**

Even Moses commented on the persecution and tribulations his followers were to go through:  Judaism: Deuteronomy 30:7 "And the LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee." Deuteronomy 8:2 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his

commandments, or no." And King David said: Psalms 119:160 "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word. I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil. I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love." Psalms 34:19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh endured ordeals and hardships sixty years. There was no persecution, vicissitude or suffering He did not experience at the hand of His enemies and oppressors. All the days of His life were passed in difficulty and tribulation -- at one time in prison, another in exile, sometimes in chains. He willingly endured these difficulties for the unity of mankind, praying that the world of humanity might realize the radiance of God, the oneness of humankind become a reality, strife and warfare cease and peace and tranquillity be realized by all. In prison He hoisted the banner of human solidarity, proclaiming universal peace, writing to the kings and rulers of nations, summoning them to international unity and counseling arbitration. His life was a vortex of persecution and difficulty; yet catastrophes, extreme ordeals and vicissitudes did not hinder the accomplishment of His work and mission. Nay, on the contrary, His power became greater and greater, His efficiency and influence spread and increased until His glorious light shone throughout the Orient, love and unity were established, and the differing religions found a center of contact and reconciliation."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 145)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In Persia the early believers in this revelation met with the utmost opposition, persecution and cruelty at the hands of their fellow countrymen, but they faced all calamities and ordeals with sublime heroism, firmness and patience. Their baptism was in their own blood, for many thousands of them perished as martyrs; while thousands more were beaten, imprisoned, stripped of their possessions, driven from their homes or otherwise ill-treated. For sixty**

years or more anyone in Persia who dared to own allegiance to the Báb or Bahá'u'lláh did so at the risk of his property, his freedom and even his life. Yet this determined and ferocious opposition could not more check the progress of the Movement than a cloud of dust could keep the sun from rising."

(Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 252)

Caution: the writings of the rest of this topic, 11. "But never came a Messenger to them but they mocked him." (The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah15), though readily found in the letters and books of history of that given time and place, are brutal and may be exceedingly disturbing to some readers. And though, all of these horrific scenes and descriptions are emphatically true, based on the records of that time period, you may not want to read this if you get emotionally involved with the books that you read or have a faint heart for the afflictions one man may perpetrate against another!

BAHA'I FAITH: "The present reign, condemned criminals (what they considered the Bábís to be; to be) crucified, blown from guns (the mouths of cannons), buried alive, impaled, shod like horses, torn asunder by being bound to the heads of two trees bent together and then allowed to spring back to their natural position, converted into human torches, flayed while living." (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. xxviii)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Tihran, August 29, 1852. Dear Friend, My last letter of the 20th inst. mentioned the attempt on the King. I will now communicate to you the result of the interrogation to which the two criminals were subjected. In spite of the terrible tortures inflicted, the examination extorted no comprehensive confession; the lips of the fanatics remained closed, even when by means of red-hot pincers and limb-rending screws they sought to discover the chief conspirator.... But follow me, my friend, you who lay claim to a heart and European

ethics, follow me to the unhappy ones who, with gouged-out eyes, must eat, on the scene of the deed, without any sauce, their own amputated ears; or whose teeth are torn out with inhuman violence by the hand of the executioner; or whose bare skulls are simply crushed by blows from a hammer; or where the bazar is illuminated with unhappy victims, because on right and left the people dig deep holes in their breasts and shoulders and insert burning wicks in the wounds. I saw some dragged in chains through the bazar preceded by a military band, in whom these wicks had burned so deep that now the fat flickered convulsively in the wound like a newly-extinguished lamp. Not seldom it happens that the unwearying ingenuity of the Orientals leads to fresh tortures. They will skin the soles of the Bábí's feet, soak the wounds in boiling oil, shoe the foot like the hoof of a horse, and compel the victim to run. No cry escaped from the victim's breast; the torment is endured in dark silence by the numbed sensation of the fanatic; now he must run; the body cannot endure what the soul has endured; he falls. Give him the coup de grace! Put him out of his pain! No! The executioner swings the whip, and -- I myself have had to witness it -- the unhappy victim of hundredfold tortures and runs! This is the beginning of the end. As for the end itself, they hang the scorched and perforated bodies by their hands and feet to a tree head downwards, and now every Persian may try his marksmanship to heart's content from a fixed but not too proximate distance on the noble quarry placed at his disposal. I saw corpses torn by nearly 150 bullets.... When I read over again what I have written I am overcome by the thought that those who are with you in our dearly beloved Austria may doubt the full truth of the picture, and accuse me of exaggeration. Would to God that I had not lived to see it! But by the duties of my profession I was unhappily often, only too often, a witness of these abominations. At present I never leave my house, in order not to meet with fresh scenes of horror. After their death the Bábís are hacked in two and either nailed to the city gate, or cast out into the plain as food for the dogs and jackals. Thus the punishment extends even beyond the limits which bound this bitter world, for Musulmans (Muslims) who are not buried have no right to enter the Prophet's Paradise. Since my whole soul revolts against such infamy, against such abominations as recent times, according to the judgment of all, present, I will no longer maintain my connection with the scene

of such crimes." (He goes on to say that he has already asked for his discharge, but has not yet received an answer.) (E. G. Browne's "Materials for the Study of the Bábí Religion," pp. 267-71 and Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, pp. xlvii and 605)

BAHA'I FAITH: XLV. "The Ancient Beauty hath consented to be bound with chains that mankind may be released from its bondage, and hath accepted to be made a prisoner within this most mighty Stronghold that the whole world may attain unto true liberty. He hath drained to its dregs the cup of sorrow, that all the peoples of the earth may attain unto abiding joy, and be filled with gladness. This is of the mercy of your Lord, the Compassionate, the Most Merciful. We have accepted to be abased, O believers in the Unity of God, that ye may be exalted, and have suffered manifold afflictions, that ye might prosper and flourish." (Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 99)

Care for those around you, the poor, the widows, the orphans, people in need.

294. Care for those around you, the poor, the widows, the orphans, people in need. In the Bahá'í Faith special consideration is taken for those people without the proper means of livelihood to insure a better life and living conditions for all. This is also strongly reflected in the writings of the holy bible. Judaism: Exodus 22:22 "Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child." Deuteronomy 15:7 "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:" Deuteronomy 15:11 "For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "They must do their utmost to extend at all times the helping hand to the poor, the sick, the disabled, the orphan, the widow, irrespective of color, caste, and creed."**

(Compilations, NSA USA - Developing Distinctive Baha'i Communities)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 41:1 "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble." Zechariah 7:10 "And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Every human creature is the servant of God. All have been created and reared by the power and favor of God; all have been blessed with the bounties of the same Sun of divine truth; all have quaffed from the fountain of the infinite mercy of God; and all in His estimation and love are equal as servants. He is beneficent and kind to all. Therefore, no one should glorify himself over another; no one should manifest pride or superiority toward another; no one should look upon another with scorn and contempt; and no one should deprive or oppress a fellow creature."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 6:20 "And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God." Luke 14:13 "When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:" 2 Corinthians 9:9 "(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Oh, friends of God! If ye will trust in the Word of God and be strong; if ye will follow the precepts of Bahá'u'lláh to tend the sick, raise the fallen, care for the poor and needy, give shelter to the destitute, protect the oppressed, comfort the sorrowful and love the world of humanity with all your hearts, then I say unto you that ere**

long this meeting-place will see a wonderful harvest. Day by day each member will advance and become more and more spiritual."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 73)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Galatians 2:10 "We should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do." James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Every soul may seek everlasting life through the breath of the Merciful. Life in this mortal world will quickly come to an end, and this earthly glory, wealth, comfort and happiness will soon vanish and be no more. Summon ye the people to God and call the souls to the manners and conduct of the Supreme Concourse. To the orphans be ye kind fathers, and to the unfortunate a refuge and shelter. To the poor be a treasure of wealth, and to the sick a remedy and healing. Be a helper of every oppressed one, the protector of every destitute one, be ye ever mindful to serve any soul of mankind."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 216)

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 2:14 "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?" 2:15 "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food," 2:16 "And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The arrangements of the circumstances of the people must be such that poverty shall disappear, and that every one as far as possible, according to his position and rank, shall be comfortable. Whilst the nobles and others in high rank are in easy circumstances, the poor also should be able to get their daily food and not be brought to the extremities of hunger."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 29)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 3:17 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" 3:18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

BAHA'I FAITH: 30. "O SON OF MAN!" "Deny not My servant should he ask anything from thee, for his face is My face; be then abashed before Me."

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

Practice what you preach.

295. Practice what you preach do what you say you are going to do: Judaism: Deuteronomy 23:23 "That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform;" Numbers 32:24 "do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth." Proverbs 3:28 "Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee." Proverbs 24:28 "Deceive not with thy lips."

BAHA'I FAITH: "When we speak let our speech be an outward evidence of the inner light, for we must speak the truth, otherwise we shall not act wisely."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 103)

CHRISTIANITY: John 10:37 "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not." 1 John 1:6 "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:" James 2:12 "So speak ye, and so do,"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: 29. "O SON OF BEING! Ascribe not to any soul that which thou wouldst not have ascribed to thee, and say not that which thou doest not. This is My command unto thee, do thou observe it."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

Praise God.

296. The Praise of God is taught throughout the religions of God: This is a standard found throughout The Bahá'í and the Christian writings. They teach us that God is an entity, so vast and intertwined in our lives and our future well-being, that His very mention is worthy of our utmost praise and all-encompassing admiration; For He is our all, our everything, when it comes to our very existence He is our supreme beloved fashioner, our transcendent Heavenly Father. Bahá'í Faith: "We give thanks to God the Lord of the worlds, and We praise Him under all circumstances: verily He is a witness unto all things."

(Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 82)

 **JUDAISM: 1 Chronicles 29:13 "Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name." Psalms 30:12 "To the end that my glory may sing praise to Thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto Thee for ever." Psalms 47:6 "Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises." 47:7 "For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding." 47:8 "God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness." 48:1 "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised." Isaiah 25:1 "O Lord, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will praise Thy name; for Thou hast done wonderful things; Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Praise be to God, in this day the light of the Word of God has shone forth upon all regions, and from all sects, communities, nations, tribes, peoples, religions and denominations, souls have gathered under the shadow of the Word of Oneness and have in the most intimate fellowship united and harmonized!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 296)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 2:13 "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying," 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Hebrews 2:12 "I will declare Thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee. And again, I will put my trust in Him." Hebrews 13:15 "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Praise be to God, the Eternal that perisheth not, the Everlasting that declineth not, the Self-Subsisting that altereth not."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 1)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; Romans 15:11 "Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud Him, all ye people."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Praise be to God, the Lord of all worlds."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 46)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Revelation 19:5 "And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye His servants, and ye that fear**

Him, both small and great." Revelation 19:6 "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bestir thyself, and magnify, before the entire creation, the name of God, and celebrate His praise, in such wise that all created things may be regenerated and made new. Speak, and hold not thy peace. The day star of blissfulness shineth above the horizon."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 27)

Precious, we are precious and cherished in the eyes of God.

297. Precious, we are precious and cherished in the eyes of God the Christian religion tells us: But also, as you might expect from all the religions of God coming from the same heavenly spiritual source, all the other religions of God also tell us of the wonderful love God holds for us and the deep desire He has for us to be with Him: (See oneness of religions website for more information) Judaism: Isaiah 43:3 "For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee." Isaiah 43:4 "Since thou wast precious in My sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life." Isaiah 43:5 "Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;" 43:6 "I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring My sons from far, and My daughters from the ends of the earth;" 43:7 "Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him." Christianity: Ephesians 2:4 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us," 2:5 "Even when we were dead in sins." John 16:27 "For the Father Himself loveth you." 2 Corinthians 2:15 "For we are unto God a sweet savour." Titus 3:3 "For we ourselves also were

sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another." Titus 3:4 "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared," 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" 3:6 "Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;" 3:7 "That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The soul that manifests pure deeds and spiritual graces is most precious in His sight and nearer to Him in its attainments." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 283) "The Sun of Truth, the Word of God, shines upon all mankind; the divine cloud pours down its precious rain; the gentle zephyrs of His mercy blow, and all humanity is submerged in the ocean of His eternal justice and loving-kindness. God has created mankind from the same progeny in order that they may associate in good fellowship, exercise love toward each other and live together in unity and brotherhood." (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 402)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: 3. "O SON OF MAN! Veiled in My immemorial being and in the ancient eternity of My essence, I knew My love for thee; therefore I created thee, have engraved on thee Mine image and revealed to thee My beauty."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: 4. "O SON OF MAN! I loved thy creation, hence I created thee. Wherefore, do thou love Me, that I may name thy name and fill thy soul with the spirit of life."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

Elimination of prejudice of all kinds.

298. Elimination of prejudice of all kinds. In the Bahá'í writings we find the call for the elimination of all prejudice of every kind, whether it be racial, economic, sexual, social, etc... Man and woman needs to learn to have thoughts of unity and reflect unity in their actions. We are like the leaves of one tree, the drops of one ocean. ✡ Judaism: Malachi 2:10 "Have we not all one Father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother?"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The fifth "principle or teaching of Bahá'u'lláh is the abandoning of religious, racial, patriotic and political prejudices, which destroy the foundations of human society. All mankind are creatures and servants of the one God. The surface of the earth is one home; humanity is one family and household. Distinctions and boundaries are artificial, human. Why should there be discord and strife among men? All must become united and coordinated in service to the world of humanity."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 107)

If members of the human race stop and reflect on how all of us, each and every one of us, came about, how could anyone rightly consider himself or herself above anyone else? We are all created from same elements, By God: ✡ Judaism: Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground." So, whether we are talking extremes of wealth or poverty, inequity of man or woman all should be considered equal members of one human family:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh states there must be 'equality of man and woman.' He has declared that in the estimation of God there is no distinction of sex."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 5:2 "Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam (which means man)," God, in His infinite wisdom, didn't even make the distinction in the name between Adam and Eve. It was man that made the separation between the two sexes: Genesis 2:23 "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Judges 4:4 "And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time."**  **Christianity: Matthew 8:14 "And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever." Matthew 8:15 "And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them." Matthew 27:55 "And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him:" Here we find that Jesus allows women to minister onto him showing no distinction or favoritism between the sexes. The bible demonstrates to us that Christ allowed women to speak to him, to touch him, to interact with him, to be his disciples and tend to his needs, which went against the custom of that day and time. Jesus treated women equally and respectfully and if not for man's doings, women would hold a high status in the Christian Faith and a place of high respect in the world; and we find that the other religions of God also hinted at equality of women.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All bias must stop whether racial prejudice, religious prejudice, national bias or any other thing that causes divisions. All countries, in the estimation of the one true God, are but one country, and all cities and villages are on an equal footing. Neither holds distinction over another."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of the Divine Plan, p. 61)

We are all created from the same God so we must rise above our differences.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh taught the Oneness of humanity; that is to say, all the children of men are under the mercy of the Great God.**

They are the sons of one God; they are trained by God. He has placed the crown of humanity on the head of every one of the servants of God. Therefore all nations and peoples must consider themselves brethren. They are all descendants from Adam. They are the branches, leaves, flowers and fruits of One Tree. They are pearls from one shell. But the children of men are in need of education and civilization, and they require to be polished, till they become bright and shining. Man and woman both should be educated equally and equally regarded. It is racial, patriotic, religious and class prejudice, that has been the cause of the destruction of Humanity"

"All men must be treated equally. This is inherent in the very nature of humanity."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 27 p. 28)

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:" Genesis 1:27 "And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Consort with all the peoples, kindreds and religions of the world with the utmost truthfulness, uprightness, faithfulness, kindliness, good-will and friendliness, that all the world of being may be filled with the holy ecstasy of the grace of Baha, that ignorance, enmity, hate and rancor may vanish from the world and the darkness of estrangement amidst the peoples and kindreds of the world may give way to the Light of Unity."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Will and Testament)

 **JUDAISM: Leviticus 19:18 "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." Deuteronomy 10:19 "Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt."**

Malachi 2:10 “Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother?”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “In the estimation of God there is no distinction of color; all are one in the color and beauty of servitude to him. Color is not important; the heart is all-important. It matters not what the exterior may be if the heart be pure and white within. God does not behold differences of hue and complexion; He looks at the hearts.” (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 267)**

“The most important principle of divine philosophy is the oneness of the world of humanity, the unity of mankind, the bond conjoining east and west, the tie of love which blends human hearts.” (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 244)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 17: 24 “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;” Acts 17:25 “Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;” Acts 17:26 “And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;”**  **Judaism: Psalms 133:1 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “All men must be treated equally. This is inherent in the very nature of humanity.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 27 p. 28)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “The divine purpose is that men should live in unity, concord and agreement and should love one another.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 245)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The term progressive revelation is used to denote the continuous number of prophets, or manifestations of God, that have been sent to the earth as divine educators of mankind. The Reality of the divine Religions is one, because the Reality is one and cannot be two. All the prophets are united in their message, and unshaken. They are like the sun; in different seasons they ascend from different rising points on the horizon. Therefore every ancient prophet gave the glad tidings of the future, and every future has accepted the past." (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 29)**

"It is the outward practices of religion that are so different, and it is they that cause disputes and enmity -- while the reality is always the same, and one." (Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 120) "The fundamental basis of the revealed religion of God is immutable, unchanging throughout the centuries, not subject to the varying conditions of the human world." (Bahá'í Faith, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 275)

The Bahá'í Writings clearly indicate that the overall essence of religion is one, but what do the other religions say on the subject?

In the bible, Christ tells us that he has other sheep not of this fold:  **Christianity: John 10:16 "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." With this one statement Jesus implies the oneness of religion. He has other sheep not of the fold he is with; the other religions. Christ tells us: John 10:16 "Them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd," or there will be one religion with one shepherd overseeing all through the oneness of religion. This is not an indication that Catholics, Protestants and Baptists etc… will all be brought together into one fold; as I have heard some people claim? These different religious sects all belong to the same religion and didn't even exist at the time Christ made this statement. So, it only stands to reason that Christ was talking about Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Buddhism etc… which were all other religions that were based on The One over all Creator and Supreme Being. Hebrews 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from**

the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"

Also, I have found, in other places in the Holy scriptures, talk indicating that God's prophets have been appearing since the beginning of creation: Christianity: 2 Peter 3:1 "I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 3:2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, 3:4...as they were from the beginning of the creation." Acts 3:21 "God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." Luke 1:70 "As he (God) spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began." Sirach 36:15 "Give testimony unto those that thou hast possessed from the beginning, and raise up prophets that have been in thy name." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Among the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh is, that religious, racial, political, economic and patriotic prejudices destroy the edifice of humanity. As long as these prejudices prevail, the world of humanity will not have rest. For a period of 6,000 years history informs us about the world of humanity. During these 6,000 years the world of humanity has not been free from war, strife, murder and bloodthirstiness."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 286)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "National rivalries, hatreds and intrigues will cease, and racial animosity and prejudice will be replaced by racial amity, understanding and cooperation. The causes of religious strife will be permanently removed, economic barriers and restrictions will be completely abolished, and the inordinate distinction between classes will be obliterated. Destitution on the one hand, and gross accumulation of ownership on the other, will disappear."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. xii)

There should be no distinction between one man and another in regards to social status, wealth or poverty, the various religions of God declare to us. Judaism: Leviticus 19:15 "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour." Deuteronomy 1:17 "Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's:" Christianity: Acts 10:34 "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." James 2:1 "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons." 2:2 "For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;" 2:3 "And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:" 2:4 "Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?" 2:5 "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" 2:6 "But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?" 2:7 "Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?" 2:8 "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:" 2:9 "But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are (convicted) of the law as transgressors."

BAHA'I FAITH: "His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh addressing all humanity, said that Adam the parent of mankind may be likened to the tree of nativity upon which you are the leaves and blossoms. Inasmuch as your origin was one, you must now be united and agreed; you must consort with each other in joy and fragrance. He pronounced prejudice, whether religious, racial, patriotic, political, the destroyer of the body-politic. He said that man must recognize the oneness of humanity, for all in origin belong to the same household and all are

servants of the same God. Therefore mankind must continue in the state of fellowship and love, emulating the institutions of God and turning away from satanic promptings, for the divine bestowals bring forth unity and agreement whereas satanic leadings induce hatred and war."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 233)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: We are told in the Bahá'í Faith: The earth is one country and mankind its citizens. "We work and pray for the unity of mankind, that all the races of the earth may become one race, all the countries one country, and that all hearts may beat as one heart, working together for perfect unity and brotherhood.**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 99)

This is also a teaching hinted at or implied by the other religions of God, telling us to be one race or one nation disregarding all national or political views that lead to disunity of mankind: Judaism: Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth." Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 9:3 "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." All things on the earth, for all men, not just a chosen few from, one area or another, or from one nation or social standing than another:

CHRISTIANITY: Acts 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;" Acts 17:25 "Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;" Acts 17:26 "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth," again, Judaism: Malachi 2:10 "Have we not all one father? hath not

one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother?" Psalms 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Christianity: Galatians 6:10 "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men."

BAHA'I FAITH: "All bias must stop whether racial prejudice, religious prejudice, national bias or any other thing that causes divisions. All countries, in the estimation of the one true God, are but one country, and all cities and villages are on an equal footing. Neither holds distinction over another."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of the Divine Plan, p. 61)

We are born here in this world to prepare for the next life.

299. We are born here in this world to prepare for the next life, not to become attached to this life the religions of God tell us: The great question that seems to come to mind when we think about religion is, what must we do to accomplish our objectives in this life; why were we created? And the answer I find in the various books of religion is we are here to: Judaism: Amos 4:12 "prepare to meet thy God." We are here to prepare to meet our creator in the next life. We are here to acquire the spiritual provisions we will need for life in the next world that is why we were created, not for the acquisition of material goods in this life. We need to live this life with our thoughts focused on ascension into the next life and to be prepared for what is coming next in our journey. 1 Samuel 7:3 "Prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you." Job 11:13 "Prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward Him." Ecclesiastes 7:1 "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth." Christianity: Matthew 24:44 "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Luke 1:17 "Make ready a people prepared for the Lord." 1 Peter 3:15 "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always."

Matthew 19:21 "Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "As the usefulness and powers of the life (of a child) were not seen in that dark and narrow world (of the womb), but when it is brought into this vast world, all the use of its growth and development becometh manifest and obvious in it, so likewise, reward and punishment, paradise and hell, and the requital of deeds and actions done by it in the present life become manifest and evident when it is transferred to the world to come -- which is far from this world! Had the life and growth of the child in the womb been confined to that condition, then the existence of the child in the womb would have proved utterly abortive and unintelligible; as would the life of this world, were its deeds, actions and their results not to appear in the world to come."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v3, p. 644)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Man has two powers; and his development, two aspects. One power is connected with the material world, and by it he is capable of material advancement. The other power is spiritual, and through its development his inner, potential nature is awakened. These powers are like two wings. Both must be developed, for flight is impossible with one wing. Praise be to God! Material advancement has been evident in the world, but there is need of spiritual advancement in like proportion. We must strive unceasingly and without rest to accomplish the development of the spiritual nature in man, and endeavor with tireless energy to advance humanity toward the nobility of its true and intended station."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 60)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the beginning of his human life man was embryonic in the world of the matrix. There he received capacity and endowment for the reality of human existence."**

“In the matrix of the mother the unborn child was deprived and unconscious of the world of material existence, but after its birth it beheld the wonders and beauties of a new realm of life and being. In the world of the matrix it was utterly ignorant and unable to conceive of these new conditions, but after its transformation it discovers the radiant sun, trees, flowers and an infinite range of blessings and bounties awaiting it. In the human plane and kingdom man is a captive of nature and ignorant of the divine world until born of the breaths of the Holy Spirit out of physical conditions of limitation and deprivation. Then he beholds the reality of the spiritual realm and Kingdom, realizes the narrow restrictions of the mere human world of existence and becomes conscious of the unlimited and infinite glories of the world of God. Therefore, no matter how man may advance upon the physical and intellectual plane, he is ever in need of the boundless virtues of Divinity, the protection of the Holy Spirit and the face of God.”

“The powers requisite in this world were conferred upon him in the world of the matrix so that when he entered this realm of real existence he not only possessed all necessary functions and powers but found provision for his material sustenance awaiting him.”

“Therefore, in this world he must prepare himself for the life beyond. That which he needs in the world of the Kingdom must be obtained here. Just as he prepared himself in the world of the matrix by acquiring forces necessary in this sphere of existence, so, likewise, the indispensable forces of the divine existence must be potentially attained in this world.”

“What is he in need of in the Kingdom which transcends the life and limitation of this mortal sphere? That world beyond is a world of sanctity and radiance; therefore, it is necessary that in this world he should acquire these divine attributes. In that world there is need of spirituality, faith, assurance, the knowledge and love of God. These he must attain in this world so that after his ascension from the earthly to the heavenly Kingdom he shall find all that is needful in that eternal life ready for him.”

"That divine world is manifestly a world of lights; therefore, man has need of illumination here. That is a world of love; the love of God is essential. It is a world of perfections; virtues, so perfections, must be acquired. That world is vivified by the breaths of the Holy Spirit; in this world we must seek them. That is the Kingdom of everlasting life; it must be attained during this vanishing existence."

"By what means can man acquire these things? How shall he obtain these merciful gifts and powers? First, through the knowledge of God. Second, through the love of God. Third, through faith. Fourth, through philanthropic deeds. Fifth, through self-sacrifice. Sixth, through severance from this world. Seventh, through sanctity and holiness. Unless he acquires these forces and attains to these requirements, he will surely be deprived of the life that is eternal. But if he possesses the knowledge of God, becomes ignited through the fire of the love of God, witnesses the great and mighty signs of the Kingdom, becomes the cause of love among mankind and lives in the utmost state of sanctity and holiness, he shall surely attain to second birth, be baptized by the Holy Spirit and enjoy everlasting existence."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 225, 226 and 288)

Physician, the world needs one.

300. Physician, the world needs one. Christianity: Matthew 9:10 "And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples." Matthew 9:11 "And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?" Matthew 9:12 "But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick." Matthew 9:13 "But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Prophets of God should be regarded as physicians whose task is to foster the well-being of the world and its peoples, that, through the spirit of oneness, they may heal the sickness of a divided humanity. To none is given the right to question their words or disparage their conduct, for they are the only ones who can claim to have understood the patient and to have correctly diagnosed its ailments. No man, however acute his perception, can ever hope to reach the heights which the wisdom and understanding of the Divine Physician have attained. Little wonder, then, if the treatment prescribed by the physician in this day should not be found to be identical with that which he prescribed before. How could it be otherwise when the ills affecting the sufferer necessitate at every stage of his sickness a special remedy? In like manner, every time the Prophets of God have illumined the world with the resplendent radiance of the Day Star of Divine knowledge, they have invariably summoned its peoples to embrace the light of God through such means as best befitted the exigencies of the age in which they appeared. They were thus able to scatter the darkness of ignorance, and to shed upon the world the glory of their own knowledge. It is towards the inmost essence of these Prophets, therefore, that the eye of every man of discernment must be directed, inasmuch as their one and only purpose hath always been to guide the erring, and give peace to the afflicted."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 79)

Priests and religious leaders are known throughout the bible and other religions to hold back the people from recognizing God's chosen ones and persecuting God's messengers and followers.

301. Priests and religious leaders are known throughout the bible and other religions to hold back the people from

recognizing God's chosen ones and persecuting God's messengers and followers. In the history of the Bahá'í Faith and the Holy Bible, as well as the other great world religions, we find the clergy, and people in authority, trying to keep the people from recognizing God's holy prophets and manifestations, while trying to stamp out the new religions at their source. They do this by trying to kill off God's chosen manifestations or banish them from their presents, while persecuting the religion's followers trying to make the people afraid to be associated with the new faith. Here are just a few examples:

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 50:6 "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place."**

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 30:7 "The LORD thy God will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee." Psalms 119:160 "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word. I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil. I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love."**

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 5:31 "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"**

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 26:7 "So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD." Jeremiah 26:8 "Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die."**

 **JUDAISM: Ezekiel 26:26 "Her priests have violated My law, and have profaned Mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them." Ezekiel 26:27 "Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain."**

 **JUDAISM: Hosea 5:1 "Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment is toward you, because ye have been a snare on Mizpah, and a net spread upon Tabor." Hosea 5:2 "And the revolters are profound to make slaughter, though I have been a rebuker of them all." Hosea 6:9 "And as troops of robbers wait for a man, so the company of priests murder in the way by consent: for they commit lewdness."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 7:45 "Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him?" John 7:46 "The officers answered, Never man spake like this man." John 7:47 "Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived?" John 7:48 "Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?" John 12:42 "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:" John 12:43 "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 13:57 "Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 23:1 "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples," Matthew 23:2 "Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:" Matthew 23:3 "All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 16:11 "Ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?" Matthew 16:12 "Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 23:13 "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in." Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 23:30 "If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets." Matthew 23:31 "Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets." Matthew 23:34 "Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:" Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" Matthew 23:39 "For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 14:43 "And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders." Mark 14:46 "And they laid their hands on him, and took him."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 24:19 "Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:" Luke 24:20 "The chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 4:1 "And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them," Acts 4:2 "Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead." Acts 4:3 "And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide." Acts 5:17 "Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees) and were filled with indignation," Acts 5:18 "And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison." Acts 5:19 "But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth,"**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 25:2 "Then the high priest and the chief of the Jews informed him against Paul, and besought him," 25:3 "And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to kill him."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Corinthians 11:23 "I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft." 2 Corinthians 11:24 "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one." 2 Corinthians 11:25 "Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;" Here, as I said, are just a few examples of the many instances in the bible where the clergy tried to stamp out the work of God's chosen ones. In the bible there are many more instances where the people in authority have tried to stop God's message from getting out to the people, but I chose only these few to make my point. In the Bahá'í Writings the instances of persecution are so numerous that whole books have been written on the subject so I won't go into any detail here, but if a person wants to know more about the persecution of the Bahá'ís read (God's messengers and chosen ones are persecuted for more information or The Dawn Breakers).**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "From the beginning of the world until the present time each Manifestation sent from God has been opposed by an embodiment of the 'Powers of Darkness.'**

"This dark power has always endeavoured to extinguish the light. Tyranny has ever sought to overcome justice. Ignorance has persistently tried to trample knowledge underfoot. This has, from the earliest ages, been the method of the material world."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 102)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Moses was persecuted and driven out into the desert, Abraham was banished, Muhammad took refuge in caves, the Bab was killed and Bahá'u'lláh was exiled and imprisoned forty years. Yet all of Them desired fellowship and love among men. They endured hardships, suffered persecution and death for our sakes that we might be taught to love one another and be united."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 234)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Báb was born in Shiraz, in the month of October, 1819. At the age of twenty-four he heralded the advent of a universal teacher whom God would manifest, and through whom the unity of all nations would be established. The Báb (door or gate) effected a reformation of Islam, opening the way for a broader movement -- for always with earnestness and zeal he cried of one who was to come after him to illumine not only Islam, but the whole world. The young reformer made his declaration in 1844 at Shiraz and afterward at Mecca, where one hundred thousand people had congregated."**

"His teachings met with instant opposition on the part of the orthodox religionists of the day.

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 5)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Bab was subjected to bitter persecution in Shiraz, where He first proclaimed His mission and message. A period of famine afflicted that region, and the Bab journeyed to Isfahan. There the learned men rose against Him in great hostility. He was arrested and sent to Tabriz. From thence He was transferred to Maku and finally imprisoned in the strong castle of Chihriq. Afterward He was martyred in Tabriz."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "His Holiness the Bab became a martyr, and over twenty thousand men and women sacrificed their lives for their faith."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 233)

"This is merely an outline of the history of the Bab. He withstood all persecutions and bore every suffering and ordeal with unflinching strength. The more His enemies endeavored to extinguish that flame, the brighter it became. Day by day His Cause spread and strengthened."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 138)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh endured ordeals and hardships sixty years. There was no persecution, vicissitude or suffering He did not experience at the hand of His enemies and oppressors. All the days of His life were passed in difficulty and tribulation -- at one time in prison, another in exile, sometimes in chains. He willingly endured these difficulties for the unity of mankind, praying that the world of humanity might realize the radiance of God, the oneness of humankind become a reality, strife and warfare cease and peace and tranquility be realized by all. In prison He hoisted the banner of human solidarity, proclaiming universal peace, writing to the kings and rulers of nations, summoning them to international unity and counseling arbitration. His life was a vortex of persecution and difficulty; yet catastrophes, extreme ordeals and vicissitudes did not hinder the accomplishment of His work and mission. Nay, on the contrary, His power became greater and greater, His efficiency and influence spread and increased**

until His glorious light shone throughout the Orient, love and unity were established, and the differing religions found a center of contact and reconciliation."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 145)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh, had for more than a quarter of a century endured tribulation upon tribulation. His Forerunner had been martyred; His young Son, the Purest Branch, and some twenty-thousand believers, men, women and children, had given their lives that the new Revelation might live. He Himself had been tortured, imprisoned, despoiled of His worldly goods, betrayed by His half-brother, and had been subjected, with His family and a small band of followers, to successive exiles and finally to incarceration in the pestilential Turkish prison-city of 'Akká. His enemies, determined to obliterate His Cause, had all unwittingly served to fulfil the ancient purpose of God by bringing to the Holy Land the One Who was destined to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. With His arrival the time for the revelation of the Law of that Kingdom had come."**

(Baha'u'llah, Synopsis and Codification of the Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 1)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Blessed Perfection (Bahá'u'lláh) was a prisoner twenty-five years. During all this time He was subjected to the indignities and revilement of the people. He was persecuted, mocked and put in chains. In Iran His properties were pillaged and His possessions confiscated. First, banishment from Iran to Baghdad; then to Constantinople; then Adrianople; finally from Roumelia to the prison fortress of 'Akká."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 223)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In Persia the early believers in this revelation met with the utmost opposition, persecution and cruelty at the hands of their fellow countrymen, but they faced all calamities and ordeals with sublime heroism, firmness and patience. Their baptism was in their**

own blood, for many thousands of them perished as martyrs; while thousands more were beaten, imprisoned, stripped of their possessions, driven from their homes or otherwise ill-treated. For sixty years or more anyone in Persia who dared to own allegiance to the Báb or Bahá'u'lláh did so at the risk of his property, his freedom and even his life. Yet this determined and ferocious opposition could not more check the progress of the Movement than a cloud of dust could keep the sun from rising." (Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 252)

Prophets have been coming to man from the beginning of the world.

302. Prophets have been coming to man from the beginning of the world to educate man and lead mankind on an ever advancing pathway towards God: Sabeanism: "And it was revealed to me (?) and to all of them in this book, and they acted upon this reliable baser acting according to this (its) light and removing nothing from this writing of great revelation that was given to Adam the first man." (Sabeanism, Ginza Rba- chapter 75)

The Bahá'í Faith tells us that God has been sending divine educators or manifestations to mankind since the very beginning of mankind's time on this earth; this is also hinted at or proclaimed in The Old Testament of the bible and openly declared in The New Testament and in the other religions of God: Judaism: Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;" Deuteronomy 18:18 "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." Ezekiel 8:17 "I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets." Zechariah 7:7 "Should ye not hear the words which the LORD hath cried by the former prophets." Ezra 6:38 "And I said, O Lord, Thou spakest from the beginning of the creation," "by the mouth of His holy prophets." (Deuterocanonical

Apocrypha, Esdras 2 (Ezra 4) Luke 1:70)  **Christianity: Luke 1:68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people," Luke 1:69 "And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David;" Luke 1:70 "As He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began:" Acts 3:21 "God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Hebrews 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant," Hebrews 13:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The great ones are from all time in their glorious station, their reality is luminous from the beginning, the reality that causes the qualities of God to appear, but the day of their manifestation is the day when they proclaim themselves of this earth."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 52)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "From the days of Adam until today, the religions of God have been made manifest, one following the other, and each one of them fulfilled its due function, revived mankind, and provided education and enlightenment. They freed the people from the darkness of the world of nature and ushered them into the brightness of the Kingdom. As each succeeding Faith and Law became revealed it remained for some centuries a richly fruitful tree and to it was committed the happiness of humankind. However, as the centuries rolled by, it aged, it flourished no more and put forth no fruit, wherefore was it then made young again."**

"The religion of God is one religion, but it must ever be renewed. Moses, for example, was sent forth to man and He established a Law, and the Children of Israel, through that Mosaic Law, were delivered out of their ignorance and came into the light; they were lifted up from their abjectness and attained to a glory that fadeth not. Still, as the

long years wore on, that radiance passed by, that splendour set, that bright day turned to night; and once that night grew triply dark, the star of the Messiah dawned, so that again a glory lit the world."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 51)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "His creation no end hath overtaken, and it hath ever existed from the 'Beginning that hath no beginning;' and the Manifestations of His Beauty no beginning hath beheld, and they will continue to the 'End that knoweth no end.'"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 167)

Progressive revelation.

303. Progressive revelation (Oneness of the messengers of God). In the writings of the Bahá'í Faith the concept of progressive revelation is clearly brought into the light. There is one God, mankind is one and the foundations of religion are one; so all the prophets from the world's great religions were sent here from the one same God to educate all of His children and not just a select few.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The term progressive revelation is used to denote the continuous number of prophets, or manifestations of God, that have been sent to the earth as divine educators of mankind. The Reality of the divine Religions is one, because the Reality is one and cannot be two. All the prophets are united in their message, and unshaken. They are like the sun; in different seasons they ascend from different rising points on the horizon. Therefore every ancient prophet gave the glad tidings of the future, and every future has accepted the past."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 28)

One thing that clearly stands out when one is studying the Holy Scriptures is the continuing progression of the covenant, or agreement, that God makes with man through His divine manifestations from generation to generation. Judaism: Psalms 111:9 "He hath commanded his covenant for ever; holy and reverend is his name." David is telling us here that God's covenant with us is forever. Since that is the case, if we are to follow the continuous covenant that God has been making with mankind we will find that God has been sending his divine manifestations in cycles and if we care to look we can see the evidence of Gods progressive revelation by just following the progression of the covenant:



SABEANISM: "In the name of The Great Life (Haiyi/God), The Great Light be Magnified! To you do I call and (you) do I teach, Men who have received the Sign. Hearken not to the talk of all peoples and generations; Let not their stumblings (dogmas, doctrines and superstitions), cause you to stumble; Stumble not because of their stumblings!" "If thou readest, read it as it is written. Oh Lord of mystic books." "Any man who is not steadfast (in thought) Whose mind is turned against Me, Whose mind is turned from Me (My laws and My commandments, My covenant), Great and not small will be his hurt." (Sabeanism, Ginza Rba- chapters 70, 89, 173 and 410, The writings of Adam, considered to be the father of mankind)



JUDAISM: B. (Noah) Genesis 6:18 "But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark." C. (Abraham) Genesis 15:18 "In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram (Abraham), saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land."



HINDUISM: D. (Krishna) "Freedom from anger, from exultation, from grumbling, from covetousness, from perplexity, from hypocrisy (and) hurtfulness; truthfulness, moderation in eating, silencing a slander, freedom from envy, self-denying liberality, avoiding to accept gifts, uprightness, affability, extinction of the passions, subjection of the senses, peace with all created beings, concentration (of the mind on

the contemplation of the Atman), regulation of one's conduct according to that of the Aryas, peacefulness and contentedness; -- these (good qualities) have been settled by the agreement (of the wise) (the covenant) for all (the four) orders; he who, according to the precepts of the sacred law, practices these, enters the universal soul."

(Hindu, The Dharma Sutras, Apastamba Prasna I, Patala 8, Khanda 23)

 **JUDAISM: E. (Moses) Exodus 2:24 "And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob." Exodus 34:28 "And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments."**

 **ZOROASTRIANISM: F. (Zoroaster) "And we worship the former religions of the world devoted to Righteousness which were instituted at the creation, the holy religions of the Creator Ahura Mazda (God), the resplendent and glorious." (The Zend-Avesta, Avesta – Yasna 16) 14. "O Zarathushtra, what righteous man is thy friend for the great covenant?" 19. "He who accomplisheth for Me, even Zarathushtra, in accordance with Right that which best agrees with My will, to him as earning the reward of the Other Life." "the thieves and robbers, of the Zandas, and the sorcerers, the covenant breakers; those who tamper with the covenants (spoil the good)."**

(Zoroaster, The Zend-Avesta, Avesta – Yasnas 46 and 61)

 **BUDDHISM: G. (Buddha) "Making the effort is your affair. The Buddhas have pointed out the Way. Those who are on the way and practicing meditation will be freed from Mara's bonds." 18. "Make yourself an island; work hard; be wise. When your impurities are purged and you are free from guilt, you will enter into the heavenly world." (This is the agreement or covenant Brahma (God) made with man through The Buddha)**

(Buddhist, Dhammapada - Sayings of the Buddha 1 and 2 (tr. J. Richards))

 **CHRISTIANITY: H. (Christ) Hebrews 12:24 "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, Hebrews 8:6 "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises." Hebrews 8:7 "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second."**

 **ISLAM: I. (Muhammad) "And call in remembrance the favor of Allah (God) unto you, and His Covenant, which He ratified with you, when ye said: 'We hear and we obey': and fear Allah, for Allah knoweth well the secrets of your hearts" (The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 5) 7. "And remember We took from the Prophets their Covenant as (We did) from thee: from Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus the son of Mary: We took from them a solemn Covenant:" 67. "For every Message is a limit of time,"**

(The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 6 and 33)

 **BABI RELIGION: J. (The Bab)**  **BAHA'I FAITH: K. (Baha'u'llah) "His Holiness Christ made a covenant concerning the Paraclete (Comforter or helper, the holy ghost) and gave the tidings of His coming. His Holiness the Prophet Muhammad made a covenant concerning His Holiness the Bab and the Bab was the One promised by Muhammad, for Muhammad gave the tidings of His coming. The Bab made a Covenant concerning the Blessed Beauty of Bahá'u'lláh and gave the glad-tidings of His coming for the Blessed Beauty was the One promised by His Holiness the Bab. Bahá'u'lláh made a covenant concerning a promised One who will become manifest after one thousand or thousands of years. He likewise, with His Supreme Pen, entered into a great Covenant and Testament with all the Bahá'ís whereby they were all commanded to follow the Center of the Covenant (Abdu'l-Baha) after His departure, and turn not away even to a hair's breadth from obeying Him."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 358)

The covenant God has made with man may be everlasting, but it is like a living thing. It is a continuing process that occasionally needs to be renewed or, we might say, upgraded as mankind matures and develops mentally, spiritually and socially.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Religion is the outer expression of the divine reality. Therefore it must be living, vitalized, moving and progressive." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 224)**

"As we develop, as a race, we change and grow in our thinking and in the way we do things." "The power of the Covenant is able to stir and move the heart of humanity, just as the New and Old Testaments propounded throughout all regions the Cause of Christ and were the pulsating power in the body of the human world." "The Covenant of God is like unto a vast and fathomless ocean." (Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 223)

 **JUDAISM: Ezra 6:38 "And I said, O Lord, Thou spakest from the beginning of the creation," "by the mouth of His holy prophets." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Esdras 2 (Ezra 4) Luke 1:70)**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 1:70 "He (God) spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began:" Acts 3:21 "God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Religion is the outer expression of the divine reality. Therefore it must be living, vitalized, moving and progressive."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 224)

It is only common sense that God would have a plan for us that includes the possibility of change as we develop and mature as a race.

We find the evidence of this, again, in the holy scriptures when we look for it: Christianity: Hebrews 8:6 "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises." Hebrews 8:7 "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second." Hebrews 8:8 "For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:" Hebrews 8:13 "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." So, as one can see right out of the pages of the bible, the covenant, after a time, waxeth old and needs to be renewed with mankind to better serve the ever changing and developing nature of mankind. And, to do this God sends another of His special servants to bring the new message to mankind.

Again:

BAHA'I FAITH: "His Holiness Christ made a covenant concerning the Paraclete and gave the tidings of His coming. His Holiness the Prophet Muhammad made a covenant concerning His Holiness the Báb and the Báb was the One promised by Muhammad, for Muhammad gave the tidings of His coming. The Báb made a Covenant concerning the Blessed Beauty of Bahá'u'lláh and gave the glad-tidings of His coming for the Blessed Beauty was the One promised by His Holiness the Báb. Bahá'u'lláh made a covenant concerning a promised One who will become manifest after one thousand or thousands of years. He likewise, with His Supreme Pen, entered into a great Covenant and Testament with all the Bahá'ís whereby they were all commanded to follow the Center of the Covenant after His departure, and turn not away even to a hair's breadth from obeying Him."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 358)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Covenant of God (again), is like unto a vast and fathomless ocean."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 223)

And, because the covenant is like a vast fathomless ocean there is always more for His (God's) children to learn.

If we look for other indicators in the holy scriptures dealing with progressive revelation, we need only look at parables in Christ's very own words: Christianity: Mark 12:1 "And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country." Mark 12:2 "And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard." Mark 12:3 "And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty." Mark 12:4 "And again he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully handled." Mark 12:5 "And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some." Mark 12:6 "Having yet therefore one son, his wellbeloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son." Mark 12:7 "But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours." Mark 12:8 "And they took him, and killed him, and cast him out of the vineyard."

If we look at this story with an open mind, knowing from the beginning that this story is a parable right from Christ's very own words, Christianity: Mark 12:1 "he began to speak unto them by parables:" If we understand the reason why Christ would speak to them in parables; Mark 4:11 "And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:" It is not hard to see that one of the many meanings of this story could be talking about progressive revelation.

Example: The owner and builder of the vineyard could be God and God's religion would be symbolic of the vineyard. The husbandmen would be the religious leaders or Pharisees, priests, Mullahs etc... that are in control of the books and traditions of the religion. The servants

that are sent to the husbandmen, would be God's holy messengers bringing a new message to humankind when the season is right to reap the harvest of human souls that can see the truth with their own eyes. The reason why the servants are beaten and turned away is because the religious leaders of that time see God's manifestations as a threat to their authority so they have to be dealt with by harsh means. The well beloved son spoken of would be Jesus Christ himself, prophesying his own death at their hands, as they try to steal the word of God from him.

This is just one of many possible interpretations that can be found when reading the creative word of God, which has many differing meanings. If we question, however, is Christ really talking about the Priests and the Pharisees in this parable, we only have to look two or three verses further and find our answer. Christianity: Matthew 21:45 "And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them." Matthew 21:46 "But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet." Mark 12:11 "This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" Mark 12:12 "And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way."

Our question about who Christ is talking about in his parable about the husbandmen is answered quickly. By just reading a little further we found our answer that yes Christ is talking about the husbandmen being the Priests and Pharisees which supports our idea that this parable is in fact Christ's way of introducing, to a much younger mankind, the principles of progressive revelation.

If we wish to see progressive revelation in action, though the bible clearly demonstrates the process of progressive revelation through the covenant by God using progressive revelation to educate mankind throughout the ages, we need only look at the early history of John the Baptist and some of the discourses Jesus has with his disciples.

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 1:13 "But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."(John the Baptist) Luke 1:17 "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." John 1:19 "And this is the record of John (John the Baptist), when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?" John 1:21 "And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No." John 1:23 "He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Elias." Matthew 17:10 "And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?" Matthew 17:11 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things." Matthew 17:12 "But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them." Matthew 17:13 "Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist."**

When the priests and Levites ask John the Baptist art thou Elias John answered quite truthfully no, Christianity: John 1:21 "And he saith, I am not." He was not the physical return of the prophet in the bible known as Elias (Elijah). But, he did state that he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness which is what Elias (Elijah) was known as, John 1:23 "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness." He also quoted some of the scriptures about Elijah, from Isaiah John 1:23 "Make straight the way of the Lord." (Isaiah 40:3 "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.")

John said no I am not Elias, but the scriptures tell us that John was the spirit and power of the return of Elias, Christianity: Luke 1:17 "he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias." And, when the disciples ask Jesus about the prophecy of the coming of Elias Matthew 17:10 "And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?" Jesus answered them that he had

come, Matthew 17:12 "But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not." Matthew 17:13 "Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist." Then they knew he spoke of John the Baptist? But, that is the question isn't it?

John said quite truthfully that he was not Elias, but Jesus said, also quite truthfully, that he was? What needs to be understood here is that this is an example progressive revelation in action. John was not the physical reincarnation of Elias, but he was, as the Holy Scriptures tell us, Luke 1:17 "the spirit and power of Elias" or the same spiritual personage as Elias who had the same spiritual attributes of the first Elijah.

God sends his heavenly manifestations to the earth in a series of progressive steps or cycles, with each step leaving mankind with a little bit more information and moving man a little closer to God. It is the same spirit and the same spiritual authority each time with the only differences being due to the extraneous conditions of the time and the current spiritual conditions of mankind. It is like the sun up in the heavens. It is the same sun but the light reaching the earth may differ on account of differences in the days. Some days may be more cloudy then others, but that doesn't affect the sun. Well, God sends his holy messengers, like the rays of the sun, to mankind, but what His prophet teaches and how His prophet has to act depends on the state and spiritual conditions of mankind and not that of God or His Holy Manifestations.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Manifestations of God are as the heavenly bodies. All have their appointed place and time of ascension, but the Light they give is the same. if one wishes to look for the sun rising, one does not look always at the same point because that point changes with the seasons. When one sees the sun rise further in the north one recognizes it, though it has risen at a different point."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 67)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." Revelations 22:13 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." What we believe this means as Bahá'ís is that all of the manifestations of God are one in their being, one in their goals and one in God. So, no matter what name they are going by at the time, whether it is Adam, Moses, Christ or Baha'u'llah all the manifestations teachings lead back to the one and only God and their objectives are all the same; to bring mankind closer to God.

BAHA'I FAITH: "We believe in the Oneness and Singleness of God, and that He manifests Himself through chosen ones from time to time, in various degrees of light and power, as His Great Mercy takes pity upon the needs and conditions of men. Whoever the Manifestor may be, we worship the One God, and we acknowledge the Manifestation, when we witness His evident Signs, the greatest of which is the POWER OF HIS WORD."

(Misc. Baha'i, Thorton Chase - Before Abraham Was I am, p. 9)

God educates mankind in progressive steps.

304. God educates mankind in progressive steps. God educates mankind in progressive steps that allows man to evolve spiritually at a pace more suited to the nature of man and not in accordance with all the knowledge God has to give us. Christianity: John 16:12 "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:" "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come," he will teach you the things I wish to teach you, but you are not ready for yet. Christ knew we were not ready for all he could give us. God has an unlimited amount of knowledge He wishes to share with us, but we are incapable of comprehending or in fact coping with the vast amount of information he has to give to us. We are like

children we have to grow and develop our mental and spiritual faculties before we can understand the amount of knowledge God has to give us. For that matter, would we even be able withstand the pure intensity of all God has to give to us? John 16:12 "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." You cannot bear them now. We would not be able to withstand the sheer mass of what He has to give to us, so, in other words, God's messengers only give us the amount of information we can spiritually tolerate at any one time and the rest is concealed until a later time.

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Religion is the outer expression of the divine reality. Therefore it must be living, vitalized, moving and progressive. If it be without motion and non-progressive it is without the divine life; it is dead."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 224)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Galatians 4:3 "Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:" Galatians 4:4 "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law," Galatians 4:5 "To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Galatians 4:6 "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." Galatians 4:7 "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." Ephesians 3:4 "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)" Ephesians 3:5 "Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;" Titus 1:2 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" Titus 1:3 "But hath in due times manifested his word," Hebrews 1:1 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,"**

Hebrews 1:2 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All the Prophets of God, including Jesus Christ, appeared in the world for the education of humanity, to develop immature souls into maturity, to transform the ignorant of mankind into the knowing, thereby establishing love and unity through divine education and training." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 40)**

"It is evident that the holy Manifestations and divine dawning points are necessary, for these blessed and glorious Souls are the foremost Teachers and Educators of mankind, and all human souls are developed through Them by the bounty of the Holy Spirit of God." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 330)

Prophet, prediction of coming and how to recognize God's prophets.

305. Prophet, prediction of coming and how to recognize God's prophets. "Though the Old Testament is filled with some 333 prophecies concerning the first coming of Christ. In spite of that, nobody got it right." (Charles Hodge). The process of recognizing a prophet from God is much easier hundreds of years after the fact when large masses of people have already accepted God's messenger and much is known about their time on earth and their writings are readily available for anyone who is trying to investigate the validity of their claim. What is not so easy is to be living in the time when the manifestation is still living on the earth or during the time after the messenger has left, when he and his writings are still relatively unknown to the majority of the world's population. It is not so simple when your belief is not readily handed down to you at birth from your parents and everyone else around you, and you have to investigate the validity of the prophet's claim for yourself; which may mean going

against the beliefs that are readily accepted by the people that are living around you.

There are several major religions in the world today that come to us from God. What needs to be understood is that all of these religions come to us from the same God, which means that all of these religions are in reality one religion differing only from one another in the context of what was needed by man during the time of their revelation and the length of time man has had to undermine the validity of the work by interpreting the meaning of the writings for everyone else. (See progressive revelation for more information). The question that readily comes to mind is that, if all of these religions come to us from the same God why hasn't the generality of mankind accepted the validity of the other major religions and stopped bickering and fighting over the word of God? If mankind has a problem accepting the validity of the religions that are already established and accepted by the masses of the people worldwide, how much harder is it for individuals to accept religious teachings and writings from a messenger that is unknown to the generality of mankind; which would naturally be the case in the advent of a new manifestation from God. To help with this problem God's messengers have given us hints that tell us things to look for in a manifestation from God and things to expect of them.

We will start with Moses' elucidation on how to recognize a manifestation from God: ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 18:15 "the LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;" Deuteronomy 18:18 "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." Deuteronomy 18:19 "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him." Deuteronomy 18:20 "But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die." Deuteronomy 18:21 "And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?"

Deuteronomy 18:22 "When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him." If a prophet promises something will happen and that thing doesn't happen that prophet is not from God, but if the things the manifestation predicts do happen then that manifestation is from God. Armed with this knowledge let us put this declaration to the test:

Moses:

 **JUDAISM: Exodus 3:21 "And I will give this people favour in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty:" Exodus 3:22 "But every woman shall borrow of her neighbour, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians." Exodus 11:2 "Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold." Exodus 11:3 "And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people." Exodus 12:35 "And the children of Israel did according to the word of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment:" Exodus 12:36 "And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians."**

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy: 31:29 "For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of The LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands." Leviticus: 26:24 "Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for**

your sins." 26:28 "Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins."

It is not hard to see, studying the bible, that the Hebrew people did just as Moses had said they would. In the time of the judges the Hebrew people were constantly straying from God's word and bringing God's wrath down upon themselves; being overthrown by first one kingdom and then another. The Hebrew people were constantly having to ask God's intercession on their behalf to gain freedom from the people who had conquered them. The bible is full of stories about the Hebrew captivity and what they must do to regain their freedom again. It would take volumes to write to tell the whole story; I have just chosen a few brief examples to tell the story:

ONE. Judges: 2:11 "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:" 2:12 "And they forsook The LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked The LORD to anger." 2:13 "And they forsook The LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth." 2:14 "And the anger of The LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies."

TWO. Judges 3:7 "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of The LORD, and forgat the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves." 3:8 "Therefore the anger of The LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years."

THREE. Judges 3:11 "And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died." 3:12 "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of The LORD: and The LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of The LORD." 3:13 "And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees." 3:14

"So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years."

FOUR. Judges: 4:1 "And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead." 4:2 "And The LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles." 4:3 "And the children of Israel cried unto The LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel."

FIVE. Judges: 6:1 "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of The LORD: and The LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years." 6:2 "And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds."

SIX. Judges: 10:6 "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of The LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook The LORD, and served not him." 10:7 "And the anger of The LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon." 10:8 "And that year they vexed and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years, all the children of Israel that were on the other side Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead."

SEVEN. Judges 13:1 "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of The LORD; and The LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years."

JUDAISM: Deuteronomy: 31:29 "For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of The LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands." Leviticus: 26:18 "And if ye will

not yet for all this hearken unto Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins." Leviticus 26:21 "And if ye walk contrary unto Me, and will not hearken unto Me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins." God will punish Israel seven times more or seven times more in addition to the seven times He will have already punished Israel for her disobedience.

During the time of reign of King Manasseh, Manasseh, and Judah along with him, did great evil in the sight of God. ✡ Judaism: 2 Kings: 21:1 "Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah." 21:2 "And he did that which was evil in the sight of The LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom The LORD cast out before the children of Israel." 21:3 "For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them." 21:4 "And he built altars in the house of The LORD, of which The LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name." 21:5 "And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of The LORD." 21:6 "And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of The LORD, to provoke him to anger." 21:7 "And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which The LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:" 21:8 "Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them." 21:9 "But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom The LORD destroyed before the children of Israel." 21:10 "And The LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying," 21:11 "Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols:" 21:12 "Therefore thus saith The LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that

whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle." 21:13 "And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down." 21:14 "And I will forsake the remnant of Mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies;" 21:15 "Because they have done that which was evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day." 21:16 "Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of The LORD." Jeremiah: 15:4 "And I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah king of Judah, for that which he did in Jerusalem." 15:5 "For who shall have pity upon thee, O Jerusalem? or who shall bemoan thee? or who shall go aside to ask how thou doest?" 15:6 "Thou hast forsaken Me, saith The LORD, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting." 15:7 "And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children, I will destroy My people, since they return not from their ways." 15:8 "Their widows are increased to Me above the sand of the seas: I have brought upon them against the mother of the young men a spoiler at noonday: I have caused him to fall upon it suddenly, and terrors upon the city." 15:9 "She that hath borne seven languisheth: she hath given up the ghost; her sun is gone down while it was yet day: she hath been ashamed and confounded: and the residue of them will I deliver to the sword before their enemies, saith The LORD."

Manasseh did such evil and caused Jerusalem and Judah to do such evil in the sight of God that Judah was never free again, but was occupied for the duration of the prophecy until the ending of the time of the gentiles. God, as Moses promised, punished the children of Israel seven more times. It was not until the fulfillment of this prophecy, with the passage of seven years of prophecy, that this time came to an end. From the year beginning with the conquest of Judah by Babylon in 677 to 676 B.C. seven times or seven years of prophecy

with each prophetic year equal to 360 days or 360 years of prophecy according to the bible that this time of punishment came to an end: Ezekiel: 4:6 "I have appointed thee each day for a year." The prophetic month in the bible of that time was considered to be 30 days, so 12 months of 30 days equals 360 days for a year. The Egyptian and Babylonian calendars of those times both used 30 day months as well. If we calculate 7 times to equal seven 360 day years we come up with 2520 days or 2520 years. 7 x 360 = 2520 years. When we subtract 677 B.C. from 2520 years we get 1843 years or the year 1843 as the year for the completion of this seven times of punishment or the year 1844 since there is no zero year going from B.C. to A.D. We also know this is the year for the completion of this prophecy, because the signing of the Edict of Toleration allowing the Jewish people legally back into the Holy Land, which was signed in March of 1844 (see day of the gentiles for more information). So, with the coming of the year 1844 we have the completion of the seven more times of punishment of the Jews promised by Moses for their faithlessness with the declaration of the Báb in May of the year 1844.

Seven times the children of Israel did evil in the sight of God and provoked God to anger! Moses prophesied that seven times the children of Israel would provoke God to anger. Then Israel will do such evil in the sight of The Lord that He will punish Israel seven more times for their godlessness. I think we can safely say that this prophecy from Moses regarding the children of Israel came true, as well as the prophecy of the children of Israel getting the spoils over the Egyptians when they left Egypt. I think we have proof that the things Moses prophesied did in fact come true; so Moses was one of God's manifestations or a supreme prophet.

Jesus Christ:

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew: 24:1 "And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple." 24:2 "And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Luke: 21:24 "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive

into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." In 132 AD, almost 100 years after the death of Christ, the Jewish people tried to rebel against Roman rule under the leadership of Bar Cochba. The Jewish armies were crushed under the Roman legions of Hadrian and Jerusalem was razed to the ground and a new city named in honor of Emperor Hadrian was built on its ruins, while the Jewish people were led away captive into all nations. This is well known Jewish history, look it up.

a. Religion is preached and published around the world.

Matthew: 24:3 "And as he (Jesus) sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." In this day and time it's not hard to accept that this prophecy has been fulfilled and then some. In the mid eighteen hundreds 1840s to 1850s though, it might have seemed a little harder to accept; even though scholars of that time period doing a study on the spread of Christianity stated that the gospel of Christ had been spread everywhere and was being taught on all the continents. By the year 1844 the Gospel of Christ was even being taught in the interior of Africa, and not on an individual missionary level but on a mission organized level. So, in the mid eighteen hundreds, for the first time in human history this prophecy of the spread of Christianity around the world was believed to be fulfilled. If we look at Mark we find that Mark puts a little different slant on this prophecy by stating that the gospel must be published among all nations. Mark: 13:3 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately," 13:4 "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?" 13:10 "And the gospel must first be published among all nations." By 1804 the holy bible was already translated into fifty languages. In 1804 the British and Foreign bible societies were formed. In 1816 the American Bible Society was formed. The purpose of these societies was the spreading of the written word of the

gospels around the world. By 1843 the British and American Bible Societies with their numerous branches around the world were spreading the Gospel of Christ to every part of the world in every language with over four hundred million copies of the bible being distributed by the British and Foreign Bible Societies alone. This seems to be a pretty good indication that the Gospel of Christ was published among all the nations by 1843 to 1844. This gives us a good indication that both these prophecies of Jesus Christ's return, the gospels being preached around the world and the gospels being published around the world had both been fulfilled around the years 1843 to 1844.

b. Day of the gentiles. The day of the gentiles stands for a time when the holy land will be over ran and controlled by gentiles (non-Jewish people), and Jews will not be in their country, or be allowed back into their country until the time of the gentiles is fulfilled which means the Jews will be allowed back into their country. Luke: 21:7 "And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?" 21:24 "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Again in the year 132 AD, almost 100 years after the death of Christ, the Jewish people tried to rebel against Roman rule under the leadership of Bar Cochba. Because of this the Jewish armies were crushed under the Roman legions of Hadrian and Jerusalem was razed to the ground and a new city named in honor of Emperor Hadrian was built on it ruins.

As the prophecy foretells, the Jewish people fell by the edge of the sword and were led away captive into all nations and for a Jew to enter the holy land was a crime punishable by death. The Jewish people were not allowed back into their own homeland until March 21, 1844 with the signing of the Edict of Toleration allowing Jewish people to legally come back into their homeland. For the first time in over seventeen hundred years the Jewish people were allowed back into the holy land, thus bringing about the end of the time of the gentiles

and fulfilling another one of Jesus Christ's prophecies about his second coming.

c. Abomination of desolation. The abomination of desolation is a period of time starting from a point set by Daniel which gives us an amount of time until the crucifixion of Christ and the second coming of Christ. Matthew: 24:3 "And as he (Jesus) sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" 24:15 "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand)."

We find that our reference point for the beginning of the abomination of desolation starts with the command going out by a foreign king to not only rebuild Jerusalem, but to restore the city, which would indicate a complete working city with people living there with a government and civil laws in place etc.... Judaism: Daniel: 9:25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem....." Ezra: 6:3 "In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits;" Ezra: 6:14 "And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia." The decree of Artaxerxes issued in 457 B.C. dealt with the furnishing and finishing up of the temple of God in Jerusalem and the rebuilding of Jerusalem. The decrees from the other two kings, Cyrus and Darius, succeed in getting the bare walls and roof of the temple up and standing but it wasn't until the third edict in 457 B.C. that the temple was completed, but the city itself was not started on right away. Ezra: 7:1 "In the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia," 7:6 "went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses,

which The LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of The LORD his God upon him. (The king gave Ezra everything he wanted, because the hand of God was upon him): 7:10 "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of The LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. Ezra: 7:11 "Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of The LORD, and of his statutes to Israel." 7:12 "Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of The God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time." 7:13 "I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee" 7:14 "Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem (here we can see that part of what Ezra was asking the Persian king was in fact dealing the rebuilding of Jerusalem, which we can see was indicated here because Ezra was clearly enquiring about Judah and Jerusalem), according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand;" 7:15 "And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem, 7:16 And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem:" 7:18 "And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God." 7:21 "And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,"

The temple of God was finished, as I said earlier, by the 457 B.C. decree during the time of Ezra, but the city of Jerusalem itself was not started on until 444 B.C. but since this wasn't a true edict but letters given to Nehemiah from the same Persian King Artaxerxes, the 444 B.C. letters only allowed for the completion of the 457 B.C. edict with the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem itself.

Daniel: 9:25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem....."

Since Daniel states that it is from the command to rebuild Jerusalem and not the actual rebuilding of Jerusalem that is the starting point we go with the 457 B.C. edict because Nehemiah was only given letters to use for the completion. Nehemiah: 2:7 "Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah;" 2:8 "And a letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me."

Thus, with the 457 B.C. edict from Artaxerxes, the true decree for the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem, and the additional letters from Artaxerxes to Nehemiah, the work on the city commenced and the time of the desolation spoken of by Christ and Daniel proceeded.

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew: 24:3 "And as he (Jesus) sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" 24:15 "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand)." So 457 B.C. is the time frame we choose for the starting point of our time scale for the abomination of desolation.**

 **JUDAISM: Daniel: 8:13 "Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, "How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?" Daniel: 8:14 "And he said unto me, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." The sanctuary will be cleansed by Christ returning in 2300 days or 2300 years according to prophetic days of the bible Numbers: 14:33 "And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness." 14:34 "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even**

forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise." Ezekiel: 4:6 "And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year."

The cleansing of the sanctuary is considered by many Christian theologians to be the time of the return of Jesus Christ, whereas the ending of the daily sacrifice is considered to be the prediction of the crucifixion of Jesus. Both of these predictions come from Daniel and both start at the same point, where Artaxerxes decreed the building of Jerusalem. So, from here it is all just a matter of doing some simple math. If we subtract 457 years from 2300 years we get eighteen hundred and forty three years, or the year 1843 as the time to look for Christ's return. But, if we or bear in mind there is no 0 year going from B.C. to A.D. we get eighteen hundred and forty four or it is the year 1844 that Jesus Christ is telling his disciples we should expect his return.

If there is some confusion regarding this target year and these calculations; Daniel also uses this same desolate point of reference to prophecy the crucifixion of Christ. ✡ Judaism: (Daniel: 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy." Christ or Christos in Greek means anointed or the anointed one so we are given a clue here that this prophecy is talking about Christ because Daniel states: Daniel: 9:24 ".....to anoint the most Holy." Or to anoint Jesus Christ who is in this case being called the Most Holy.

✡ JUDAISM: Daniel: 9:25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times." Daniel: 9:26 "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:" Daniel: 9:27 "And he shall

confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

From these statements from Daniel we can see that Daniel going from the command to rebuild Jerusalem by non-Jewish kings to the crucifixion of Jesus, "Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:" there are seventy weeks or seven weeks threescore (60 weeks) and two weeks plus one week during which Christ confirmed God's covenant with mankind and then he was crucified. So, again all we need to do is pull out our calculator and do some simple math. If we do our math right we come up with seventy weeks or 490 days or 490 prophetic years from the order to rebuild Jerusalem to when Christ will be crucified. If we subtract 457 years from 490 years we get 33 years or Jesus Christ was crucified at around 33 years of age. We know that Jesus Christ started his mission at around 30 years of age, because Luke tells us this: Christianity: Luke: 3:23 "And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,)." We also know from biblical events that transpired during Christ's ministry that his ministry lasted approximately three years, so starting at age 30 Jesus would have been around 33 years of age when he was crucified, or well within the time frame Daniel predicted with his 70 weeks. If we lend credence to Daniel's prediction of Jesus Christ's crucifixion at age 33 then it is also very reasonable, very reasonable indeed, to assume that Daniels prediction about the cleansing of the sanctuary: Daniel: 8:14 "And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." I think we can assume that after 2300 years or the year 1844, by our times, is the time Christ was talking about his return.

So, we have the prophecy of the preaching and publishing of the word of Christ for all the world to witness occurring somewhere between the 1840s and 1850s with choice years being around 1843 to 1844. We have the signing of the Edict of Toleration by the Turkish Government on March 21st 1844 which in effect allowed the Jewish people back into their homeland for the first time in 12 centuries thus ending the prophecy of the day of the gentiles. And we have the

fulfillment of the prophecy of the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel ending in the year 1844. So, in effect, we have all three prophecies from Jesus Christ himself that tell of his return to this earth occurring in the year 1844, which is the exact year the prophet founder of the Bábí religion, the forerunning religion to the Bahá'í Faith, the Báb declare himself as the one promised to us by Jesus Christ on May 23rd 1844.

I think we can safely say that Jesus Christ's predictions about the second coming all aligning in the year 1844 and his prediction about the destruction of the temple and his prediction about the Israelites being led away captive into all nations did in fact happen. So, if we use the parameters Moses has given us, the things a true prophet states occur in the real world, to measure the validly of Jesus Christ's claim to prophethood, I think we can state that Christ falls within these boundaries. Christ was one of God's prophets or one of God's manifestations.

The Báb:

 **BABI RELIGION: "The Báb, in His Tablet addressed to Muhammad Shah, states that He foretold, in a letter to two divines in Yazd, the date of the death of Manuchihr Khan, eighty-seven days before it occurred. And He mentions that Manuchihr Khan had offered Him all that he possessed, even taking off his rings and placing them before Him." "Manuchihr Khan had come to realize that his wealth was the product of oppression. The Báb accepted both his repentance and his wealth, then returned to him his riches for his use until his death, which occurred in the month of Rabi'u'l-Avval 1263 A.H. (February-March 1847 A.D.)" (H. M. Balyuzi, The Bab - The Herald of the Days, p. 116)**

"He (The Báb) related to Mulla Husayn those events which must needs transpire in the future, and bade him not to mention them to anyone. 'A few days after your departure from this place," the Báb informed him, "they will transfer Us to another mountain. Ere you arrive at your destination, the news of Our departure from Mah-Ku will have reached you."

“The prediction which the Báb had uttered was promptly fulfilled.” “Mulla Husayn, who had already, at the bidding of the Báb, departed from Mah-Ku, was still in Tabriz when the news of his Master's predicted transference to Chihriq reached him.” (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 258 and 259)

“The Second and greater Manifestation of God was proclaimed in accordance with the prophecy of the Báb at the date which He had foretold. Nine years after the beginning of the Bábí Dispensation -- that is, in 1853 -- Bahá'u'lláh, in certain of His odes, alluded to His identity and His Mission, and ten years later, while resident in Baghdad, declared Himself as the Promised One to His companions.” (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. xxxv, 35)

Most information related to The Báb was destroyed: “Many of His (The Báb’s) copious works were utterly obliterated, others were torn and reduced to ashes.” (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 655) So it is hard to find much on The Báb’s prophecies, but those we find were fulfilled indicating that The Báb, according to the writings of Moses, was in-fact a prophet or manifestation from God.

Bahá’u’lláh:

BAHA’I FAITH: “Thy kingdom shall be thrown into confusion, and thine empire shall pass from thine hands, as a punishment for that which thou hast wrought. Then wilt thou know how thou hast plainly erred. Commotions shall seize all the people in that land, unless thou arisest to help this Cause, and followest Him Who is the Spirit of God (Jesus Christ) in this, the Straight Path. Hath thy pomp made thee proud? By My Life! It shall not endure; nay, it shall soon pass away, unless thou holdest fast by this firm Cord. We see abasement hastening after thee, whilst thou art of the heedless” (Baha'u'llah, The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. 20)

“All this happened just as announced by Bahá'u'lláh. Napoleon III was dethroned and exiled. His empire passed away and became

nonexistent." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 211)

"O banks of the Rhine! We have seen you covered with gore, inasmuch as the swords of retribution were drawn against you; and you shall have another turn. And We hear the lamentations of Berlin, though she be today in conspicuous glory." (Baha'u'llah, The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. 39)

To Kaiser William 1 of Germany, Bahá'u'lláh disclosed the country's grim future, which included two world wars and retributive sanctions so severe that it resulted in decades of lamentations for Berlin.

"O Queen in London! Incline thine ear unto the voice of thy Lord, The Lord of all mankind, calling from the Divine Lote-Tree..... We have been informed that thou hast forbidden the trading in slaves, both men and women. This, verily, is what God hath enjoined in this wondrous Revelation. God hath, truly, destined a reward for thee, because of this..... "We have also heard that thou hast entrusted the reins of counsel into the hands of the representatives of the people. Thou, indeed, hast done well, for thereby the foundations of the edifice of thine affairs will be strengthened, and the hearts of all that are beneath thy shadow, whether high or low, will be tranquillized." (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 59)

When Bahá'u'lláh addressed this letter to Queen Victoria of England she was in poor health and her administration was out of favor because she had taken a German consort. But, just as Baha'u'llah had predicted her government was strengthened and Britain prospered under her rule. Her reign lasted until 1901.

"Every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God is endowed with such potency as can instill new life into every human frame, if ye be of them that comprehend this truth. All the wondrous works ye behold in this world have been manifested through the operation of His supreme and most exalted Will..... In the days to come, ye will, verily, behold things of which ye have never heard before. Thus hath it been decreed in the Tablets of God..... every created thing will, according to

its capacity and limitations, be invested with the power to unfold the knowledge of the most marvelous sciences, and will be empowered to manifest them in the course of time at the bidding of Him Who is the Almighty, the All-Knowing." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 141) There is very little that needs to be said here bout this prophecy made by Bahá'u'lláh in the later part of the nineteenth century. One just has to look around him to see the great knowledge and scientific achievements that has come into being in the world since the release of this statement. Knowledge and achievement in all fields of science and general human development as well as the increase and modernization of civilization have advanced more since the late nineteenth century then all of the achievements of man on this earth since before this time put together. To make a list: planes, space travel, computers etc... it would take volumes and volumes of space and we would still only be scratching the surface of mankind's achievements.

"Strange and astonishing things exist in the earth but they are hidden from the minds and the understanding of men. These things are capable of changing the whole atmosphere of the earth and their contamination would prove lethal." (Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 69)

"There is in existence a stupendous force, as yet, happily undiscovered by man. Let us supplicate God, the Beloved, that this force be not discovered by science until spiritual civilization shall dominate the human mind. In the hands of men of lower nature, this power would be able to destroy the whole earth." (Compilations, Japan Will Turn Ablaze, p. 51) Bahá'u'lláh predicts the development of nuclear weapons and the effect they would have on the planet, the effects they would have on life on the planet and their known effects on the atmosphere of the planet, nearly 80 years before their development.

Here are just a few of the prophecies, of the volumes of prophecies Bahá'u'lláh has made, that have come true over time as science and world events transpired. There are books a person can read if they are

interested in pursuing this matter further, but I, for the interest of being brief, will just name these few.

I think, using Moses' statement, we will know a true prophet or manifestation from God by his predictions coming true, can be confirmed here and Bahá'u'lláh, like Moses, Jesus Christ and The Báb pass this test of God for prophethood; but we don't have to stop here!

Jesus also gives us a standard by which we might test the validity of a messenger of God when he tells us to beware of false prophets and tells us we will know them by their fruits: Christianity: Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Matthew 7:16 "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" Matthew 7:17 "Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit." Matthew 7:18 "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." Matthew 7:19 "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Matthew 7:20 "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."
John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Using this standard from Christ, know them by their fruits and try the spirits whether they are from God, we can again test these prophets to see if they pass this test also:

Moses:

Moses turned away from his own will to do God's bidding. He went up to Egypt, even though he was known to have murdered a man there, and went before the Pharaoh to ask for the freedom of God's people to worship. Moses withstood the anger of Pharaoh and patiently kept going up before the Pharaoh to ask permission for God's people to go out and perform offerings to God, while God smote Egypt with plague after plague. Then after winning the freedom for the Israelite people Moses led them out of Egypt and cared for them and stayed with them

for over forty years, doing as God told him. To his credit Moses brought forth laws and commandments from God that men may be better governed and by following His ordinances man may develop a better character. ✡ Judaism: Exodus: 20:12 "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which The LORD thy God giveth thee."
Exodus: 20:13 "Thou shalt not kill."
Exodus: 20:14 "Thou shalt not commit adultery."
Exodus: 20:15 "Thou shalt not steal."
Exodus: 20:16 "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."
Exodus: 20:17 "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."
Deuteronomy: 27:10 "Thou shalt obey the voice of The LORD thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes,"
Deuteronomy: 23:23 "That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform;"
Deuteronomy: 15:7 "Thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:"
Deuteronomy: 15:8 "But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth."
Exodus: 33:19 "Be gracious, and shew mercy."

These are just a few of the examples of the laws Moses brought onto the people that helped guide mankind for thousands years and is still helping to guide man's steps aright even to this very day.

As to what else we can find out about the fruits of Moses' character what can be found in the holy writings states that Moses was a meek mild type of soul above all others on the face of the planet. ✡ Judaism: Numbers: 12:3 "(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)" Here by all these things we know Moses was a prophet of good fruits.

Jesus Christ:

Jesus arose out of the midst of a down trodden conquered people living under Roman rule. He came to the people a humble carpenter's son, meek of nature, claiming to be sent by God, saying repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Jesus gathered a few followers around him, disciples, and started teaching the masses spiritual truths and words to live by. He taught the people things like: Christianity: Matthew: 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven," and 5:38 "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:" 5:39 "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

Here are just a few examples of what Jesus taught that helped to make for a better humanity, and here are just a few more statements he taught, and what he stood for, that will allow us to get a better understanding of what Jesus was trying to accomplish with the people:
Matthew: 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew: 5:4 "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."
Matthew: 5:5 "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."
Matthew: 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."
Matthew: 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."
Matthew: 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."
Matthew: 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."
Matthew: 5:10 "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew: 5:11 "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."
Matthew: 5:12 "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

John: 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments."
John: 15:10 "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love."
1 Timothy: 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:"
1 Corinthians: 13:2 "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."
Luke: 6:36 "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful."
Romans: 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour (uprightness) preferring one another;"
Ephesians: 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
2 Corinthians: 6:6 "By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,"
Colossians: 3:12 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;"
Philippians: 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, what-so-ever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."
Matthew: 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
1 Thessalonians: 5:14 "Now we exhort you, brethren, be patient toward all men."

This is just a small part of what Jesus taught while he was on this earth; Jesus was, like Moses, very meek: Christianity: Matthew: 11:29 "for I am meek and lowly in heart." 2 Corinthians: 10:1 "by the meekness and gentleness of Christ." But beyond this, Jesus was persecuted by the scribes and Pharisees and people for what he was teaching. Jesus was persecuted so much that he didn't have a permanent abode to live. The clergy was so hostile to Jesus that he and his followers didn't have a place to lay their heads at night.

Matthew: 8:20 "And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." The ground was his bed and the stars in heaven was his night light; but this didn't stop Jesus. He courageously stood up to these people who would silence God's word. Jesus was fearless in the way he taught his teachings, standing up to whoever sought to diminish God's word. The persecutions got so bad that this people finally took hold of Jesus and took this essence of purity before the authorities where Jesus was given a mock trial and sentenced to die. From there Jesus was tortured and mocked then taken to Golgotha, where the Romans nailed him to a cross and cast lots for his clothes. And what did Christ have to say to them for all that they did to him? Luke: 23:34 "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." This is a small example of the fruits of Jesus Christ that declare him to be a prophet of God.

The Báb:

The Báb like the other manifestations of God was also persecuted for his faith and teachings, here are some examples: Bábism "The Báb was born in Shiraz, in the month of October, 1819. At the age of twenty-four he heralded the advent of a universal teacher whom God would manifest, and through whom the unity of all nations would be established. The Báb (door or gate) effected a reformation of Islam, opening the way for a broader movement -- for always with earnestness and zeal he cried of one who was to come after him to illumine not only Islam, but the whole world. The young reformer made his declaration in 1844 at Shiraz and afterward at Mecca, where one hundred thousand people had congregated." "His teachings met with instant opposition on the part of the orthodox religionists of the day." (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 5)

"Moses was persecuted and driven out into the desert, Abraham was banished, Muhammad took refuge in caves, the Bab was killed and Bahá'u'lláh was exiled and imprisoned forty years. Yet all of them desired fellowship and love among men. They endured hardships, suffered persecution and death for our sakes that we might be taught

to love one another and be united." (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 234)

"The Bab was subjected to bitter persecution in Shiraz, where He first proclaimed His mission and message. A period of famine afflicted that region, and the Bab journeyed to Isfahan. There the learned men rose against Him in great hostility. He was arrested and sent to Tabriz. From thence He was transferred to Maku and finally imprisoned in the strong castle of Chihriq. Afterward He was martyred in Tabriz."

"This is merely an outline of the history of the Bab. He withstood all persecutions and bore every suffering and ordeal with unflinching strength. The more His enemies endeavored to extinguish that flame, the brighter it became. Day by day His Cause spread and strengthened." (The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 138)

"The tales of the signs and wonders which the Báb's unnumbered admirers had witnessed were soon transmitted from mouth to mouth, and gave rise to a wave of unprecedented enthusiasm which spread with bewildering rapidity over the entire country. It swept over Tihran and roused the ecclesiastical dignitaries of the realm to fresh exertions against Him. They trembled at the progress of a Movement which, if allowed to run its course, they felt certain would soon engulf the institutions upon which their authority, nay their very existence, depended. They saw on every side increasing evidences of a faith and devotion such as they themselves had been powerless to evoke, of a loyalty which struck at the very root of the fabric which their own hands had reared and which all the resources at their command had as yet failed to undermine." (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 312)
So The Báb like the rest of God's prophets was persecuted for his teachings to mankind; here are some of his teachings, just a few of the fruits off the tree of The Báb:

"Let a prophet, if his gospel be in question, be judged by his own preaching." Judge him by his fruits. (Moojan Momen, The Babi and Baha'i Religions 1844-1944, p. 46)

“These ethics taught by a young man (The Báb) at an age when passions were intense, deeply impressed an audience, religious to the point of fanaticism, above all when the words of the preacher were in perfect harmony with his conduct.” (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 158)

“The fruit is within the supreme testimony itself, not in the things derived therefrom.” (Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 104)
“O THOU cherished Fruit of the heart! Give ear to the melodies of this mystic Bird warbling in the loftiest heights of heaven. The Lord hath, in truth, inspired Me to proclaim: Verily, verily, I am God, He besides Whom there is none other God. He is the Almighty, the All-Wise.” (Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 67)

“When the Qá'im appeared all things would be renewed. But the Qá'im was on the point of appearing, and all that remained was to prepare for his Coming. No more should there be any distinction between higher and lower races, or between male and female. No more should the long, enveloping veil be the badge of woman's inferiority. The gifted woman before us had her characteristic solution of the problem... It is said in one form of tradition, that Qurratu'l-'Ayn herself attended the conference with a veil on. If so, she lost no time in discarding it, and broke out (we are told) into the fervid exclamation, 'I am the blast of the trumpet, I am the call of the bugle,' i.e. 'Like Gabriel, I would awaken sleeping souls.' It is said, too, that this short speech of the brave woman was followed by the recitation by Bahá'u'lláh of the Surih of the Resurrection. The inner meaning of this was that mankind was about to pass into a new cosmic cycle, for which a new set of laws and customs would be indispensable.” (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 298)

“O ye that are invested with the Bayan! Denounce ye not one another, ere the Day-Star of ancient eternity shineth forth above the horizon of His sublimity. We have created you from one tree and have caused you to be as the leaves and fruit of the same tree, that haply ye may become a source of comfort to one another. Regard ye not others save as ye regard your own selves, that no feeling of aversion may prevail amongst you so as to shut you out from Him Whom God shall make manifest on the Day of Resurrection. It behooveth you all to

be one indivisible people; thus should ye return unto Him Whom God shall make manifest." (Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 127)
"Become as true brethren in the one and indivisible religion of God, free from distinction, for verily God desireth that your hearts should become mirrors unto your brethren in the Faith, so that ye find yourselves reflected in them, and they in you. This is the true Path of God, the Almighty, and He is indeed watchful over your actions." (Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 56)

"The call is raised for "the condemnation of all forms of prejudice, including racial, national, religious and sexual. The equality of rights, opportunities and privileges for men and women. The elimination of extremes of poverty and wealth." (Moojan Momen, The Babi and Baha'i Religions, p. xxiv)
"I am bidden by Him to instill into men's hearts the ennobling principles of charity and love." (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 553)

"Broadly regarded, Bábism may be defined as a creed of charity, and almost of common humanity. Brotherly love, kindness to children, courtesy combined with dignity, sociability, hospitality, freedom from bigotry, friendliness even to Christians, are included in its tenets." (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 600)

"He characterized as an emphasis on compassion, mercy, association with all peoples, trustworthiness towards all men, and the unification of mankind." (Peter Smith, The Bábí & Baha'i Religions, p. 82)

"KNOW thou that in the Bayan purification is regarded as the most acceptable means for attaining nearness unto God and as the most meritorious of all deeds. Thus purge thou thine ear that thou mayest hear no mention besides God, and purge thine eye that it behold naught except God, and thy conscience that it perceive naught other than God, and thy tongue that it proclaim nothing but God, and thy hand to write naught but the words of God, and thy knowledge that it comprehend naught except God, and thy heart that it entertain no wish save God, and in like manner purge all thine acts and thy pursuits

that thou mayest be nurtured in the paradise of pure love, and perchance mayest attain the presence of Him Whom God shall make manifest, adorned with a purity which He highly cherisheth, and be sanctified from whosoever hath turned away from Him and doth not support Him. Thus shalt thou manifest a purity that shall profit thee." (Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 97)

"If thou hast, upon hearing the divine verses and by virtue of thy spontaneous love for the True Word of God, responded in a spirit of utter humility and lowliness -- a spirit which is one of the mightiest signs of true love and understanding -- then such proofs have been and will ever be regarded as sound." (Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 120)

"Remain patient as we have remained patient." "BE Thou patient!" (The Bab, Selections from the Writings of the Bab, pp. 16 and 56)
"The path to guidance is one of love and compassion, not of force and coercion." (Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 75)

"There is only one great verity in it: Love, the mainspring of every energy, tolerance towards each other, desire of understanding each other, knowing each other, helping each other, forgiving each other." (Moojan Momen, The Babi and Baha'i Religions 1844-1944, p. 60)
Be "Honest, truthful, and worthy." (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 413)

"Exercise..... forbearance." (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 308)

These are a few of the teachings or fruits off the tree of the Báb, also his life was a form of inspiration to the people around him: "By the uprightness of his life the young Siyyid (The Báb) served as an example to those about him. His words were repeated and elaborated upon and they spoke of him as the true Master." By his pure fruits they recognized him. (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 158)

He was also known, like the other prophets, for his gentleness and meekness to others: "The first period (1844 thru 1853), centers around

the gentle, the youthful and irresistible person of the Báb, matchless in His meekness, imperturbable in His serenity, magnetic in His utterance, unrivaled in the dramatic episodes of His swift and tragic ministry." (Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, p. xiv)

"I was enabled to meet the Báb on several occasions. Every time I met Him, I found Him in such a state of humility and lowliness as words fail me to describe. His downcast eyes, His extreme courtesy, and the serene expression of His face made an indelible impression upon my soul. I often heard those who were closely associated with Him testify to the purity of His character, to the charm of His manners, to His self-effacement, to His high integrity, and to His extreme devotion to God." (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 79)

These are a few of the fruits of The Báb that indicate according to Jesus' criteria, know them by their fruits, that indicate The Báb is clearly a good candidate for prophethood from God.

Bahá'u'lláh:

Bahá'u'lláh like the rest of God's prophets suffered persecution and hardship at the hands of the people around him: "Bahá'u'lláh endured ordeals and hardships sixty years. There was no persecution, vicissitude or suffering He did not experience at the hand of His enemies and oppressors. All the days of His life were passed in difficulty and tribulation -- at one time in prison, another in exile, sometimes in chains. He willingly endured these difficulties for the unity of mankind, praying that the world of humanity might realize the radiance of God, the oneness of humankind become a reality, strife and warfare cease and peace and tranquility be realized by all. In prison He hoisted the banner of human solidarity, proclaiming universal peace, writing to the kings and rulers of nations, summoning them to international unity and counseling arbitration. His life was a vortex of persecution and difficulty; yet catastrophes, extreme ordeals and vicissitudes did not hinder the accomplishment of His work and mission. Nay, on the contrary, His power became greater and greater, His efficiency and influence spread and increased until His glorious

light shone throughout the Orient, love and unity were established, and the differing religions found a center of contact and reconciliation." (The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 145)

"The Blessed Perfection (Bahá'u'lláh) was a prisoner twenty-five years. During all this time He was subjected to the indignities and revilement of the people. He was persecuted, mocked and put in chains. In Iran His properties were pillaged and His possessions confiscated. First, banishment from Iran to Baghdad; then to Constantinople; then Adrianople; finally from Roumelia to the prison fortress of 'Akká." (Baha'i World Faith, p. 223)

"In Persia the early believers in this revelation met with the utmost opposition, persecution and cruelty at the hands of their fellow countrymen, but they faced all calamities and ordeals with sublime heroism, firmness and patience. Their baptism was in their own blood, for many thousands of them perished as martyrs; while thousands more were beaten, imprisoned, stripped of their possessions, driven from their homes or otherwise ill-treated. For sixty years or more anyone in Persia who dared to own allegiance to the Báb or Bahá'u'lláh did so at the risk of his property, his freedom and even his life. Yet this determined and ferocious opposition could not more check the progress of the Movement than a cloud of dust could keep the sun from rising." (Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 252)

"Bahá'u'lláh was born in the early nineteenth century in Persia, modern day Iran, in a land, once glorious, that had sunk into an appalling state of backwardness and decay by the eighteenth and nineteenth century. A land who's people were governed by superstition and fanaticism where if you wanted to get something done by the government you had to bribe an official to get it done."

"Even as a boy Bahá'u'lláh showed an amazing Christ like gift of superior intelligence. As a child Bahá'u'lláh went before the royal court and argued a case against his father and won a favorable verdict. Baha'u'llah was like a prodigy, though he had no formal education, trained only to read and write. He acquired a great reputation throughout the years for his insight being able to unravel mysteries so

complex that scholars and men of letter living throughout the Middle East sought out his help in solving their various problems whether they were friends of the faith or enemies to him."

"Baha'u'llah stated that God moved him to speak and he taught things like:"

a. **There is only one God,**
b. **All men are created by this same one God, so we should all get along without prejudice (this is not indifferent to cultural differences),**
c. **There is only one God so all religion came from this same one God so all religions should agree and the followers should get along together (this does not include certain man made religions),**
d. **Man and woman come from this same God so they should have equality,**
e. **God is the creator of everything so science and religion should agree (and when they don't seem to agree it is because we may not be understanding the religious passage or we may not have a proper correct under-standing of our science),**
f. **All men and women should have a universal education available to them,**
g. **All men and women need to study the writings of God for themselves so they can come to their own conclusions (this does not exclude study groups or people studying together),**
h. **We should either adopt or make a verbal and written language that all people would learn in addition to their own language so people around the world can understand each other where ever they are in the world,**
i. **We need to be unified and establish a most great peace which will be the elimination of all wars (this will have to start with a lesser peace which will be a mutual agreement by all the nations on the earth to take up arms together if an aggressor arises and put down the aggressor).**

"They whom God hath endued with insight will readily recognize that the precepts (the laws) laid down by God constitute the highest means

for the maintenance of order in the world and the security of its peoples." (Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 331)
"As the body of man needeth a garment to clothe it, so the body of mankind must needs be adorned with the mantle of justice and wisdom." "We cherish the hope that the light of justice may shine upon the world and sanctify it from tyranny." (Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, pp. 81 and 218)

"Strive to attain nearness to reality through the acquisition of strength of character, through morality, through good works and helping the poor, through being consumed with the fire of the love of God and in discovering each day new spiritual mysteries." (Divine Philosophy, p. 99)

"Conform to the rules of good conduct and their character be second to none; that they make their own all the graces and praiseworthy qualities of humankind;" (Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 142)

"Guidance hath ever been given by words, and now it is given by deeds. Every one must show forth deeds that are pure and holy, for words are the property of all alike, whereas such deeds as these belong only to Our loved ones. Strive then with heart and soul to distinguish your-selves by your deeds. In this wise We counsel you in this holy and resplendent tablet." (The Persian Hidden Words)

"Do not be content with showing friendship in words alone, let your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your path." (Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 15)

"Enkindle with all your might in every meeting the light of the love of God, gladden and cheer every heart with the utmost loving-kindness, show forth your love to the strangers just as you show forth to your relations." (Baha'i World Faith, p. 353)

"O people of the world, ye are all the fruit of one tree and the leaves of one branch. Walk with perfect charity, concord, affection, and agreement." (A Traveller's Narrative, p. 42)

"If anyone revile you, or trouble touch you, in the path of God, be patient, and put your trust in Him Who heareth, Who seeth. He, in truth, witnesseth, and perceiveth, and doeth what He pleaseth, through the power of His sovereignty." (Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 24)

"In the estimation of the people of Baha man's glory lieth in his knowledge, his upright conduct, his praiseworthy character, his wisdom." (Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 67)

"Our greatest efforts must be directed towards detachment from the things of the world; we must strive to become more spiritual, more luminous, to follow the counsel of the Divine Teaching, to serve the cause of unity and true equality, to be merciful, to reflect the love of the Highest on all men, so that the light of the Spirit shall be apparent in all our deeds, to the end that all humanity shall be united, the stormy sea thereof calmed, and all rough waves disappear from off the surface of life's ocean henceforth unruffled and peaceful. Then will the New Jerusalem be seen by mankind, who will enter through its gates and receive the Divine Bounty." (Paris Talks, p. 87)

"Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer to the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the

diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility. We pray God to protect thee from the heat of jealousy and the cold of hatred. He verily is nigh, ready to answer.' Thus hath My tongue spoken unto one of My Branches (sons), and We have mentioned it unto such of Our loved ones as have cast away their idle fancies, and clung unto that which hath been prescribed unto them in the day whereon the Daystar of Certitude hath shone forth above the horizon of the will of God, The Lord of the worlds. This is the day on which the Bird of Utterance hath warbled its melody upon the branches, in the name of its Lord, the God of Mercy. Blessed is the man that hath, on the wings of longing, soared towards God, The Lord of The Judgment Day." (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 93)

These are just a few of the teachings that Bahá'u'lláh revealed around the middle to the end of the nineteenth century: "Whilst afflicted with trials, He held fast unto the cord of patience and fortitude, and was satisfied with the things which have befallen Him at the hands of His enemies, and was crying out: 'I have renounced My desire for Thy desire, O my God, and My will for the revelation of Thy Will. By Thy glory! I desire neither Myself nor My life except for the purpose of serving Thy Cause, and I love not My being save that I may sacrifice it in Thy path.'" (Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 36)

"His object is to array every man with the mantle of a saintly character, and to adorn him with the ornament of holy and goodly deeds," (Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 299) For this Bahá'u'lláh was first imprisoned in a place called the pit. A place so dark and foul that sleep was almost impossible, and if this wasn't bad enough Bahá'u'lláh had a one hundred pound chain that was chained to him which bent and twisted his frame scaring him for life. And, all the while he was in there one by one the believers would be taken out daily and executed.

With all of this going on Bahá'u'lláh and the other believers instead of giving in to this inhuman treatment sang praises to God, "God is sufficient onto me, in him do the trusting trust."

Once Bahá'u'lláh was released from this prison He and his family were exiled from their home in Tihran Persia to Baghdad Iraq having to cross from Tihran to Baghdad in the middle harshness of winter. Bahá'u'lláh was then, several years later, banished from Baghdad to Constantinople and from Constantinople to Adrianople and from there to the most great prison Akka the prison city by the sea. Akka was a prison so bad, so foul that it was reported that if a bird flew over Akka it would die from the foulness of the place. People weren't sent to this place to be in prison they were sent there to die. And, here Bahá'u'lláh and his family stayed for years and years. For a full 1/3 of his life Bahá'u'lláh and his family were either in exile or in the prison of Akka and all the while Bahá'u'lláh was busy doing God's work. He revealed a most holy book of laws there the Kitab-i-Aqdas:

"While in prison We have revealed a Book which We have entitled 'The Most Holy Book'. We have enacted laws therein and adorned it with the commandments of thy Lord, Who exerciseth authority over all that are in the heavens and on the earth. Say: Take hold of it, O people, and observe that which hath been sent down in it of the wondrous precepts of your Lord, the Forgiving, the Bountiful. It will truly prosper you both in this world and in the next and will purge you of whatsoever ill beseemeth you. He is indeed the Ordainer, the Expounder, the Giver, the Generous, the Gracious, the All-Praised." (Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 261)

And when Bahá'u'lláh wasn't revealing books he was writing letters and correspondence to the believers. Most people would have gone insane or died away but Bahá'u'lláh marched the kingdom of God forward facing all obstacles with courage and valor never pausing in the path of God until his death in 1892.

These are just a few of the fruits of Bahá'u'lláh to be considered when one is doing what Jesus Christ stated, which is to know a prophet of God by his fruits. For anyone who is interested there are volumes of other written material on the life and teachings of Bahá'u'lláh; one only has to look. Bahá'u'lláh in his life time revealed over one hundred volumes of written word for a person to investigate that is truly seeking.

"Similarly, the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh is spreading and being established throughout the world solely through the power of God. However, being the Supreme Revelation of God, it is endowed with a potency greater than all the Revelations of the past. Though its Author spent forty years of His ministry in exile and imprisonment under the most cruel circumstances, though the forces of two despotic potentates were leagued against Him, yet in the course of that ministry He never sought assistance for the promotion of His Faith from anybody, nor did he try to establish it through compromise, expedient measures or material means. With a meekness that is characteristic of all the Manifestations of God, He submitted Himself to His enemies and bore with resignation and patience the wrongs they inflicted on Him." (Bahá'í Faith, Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 2, p. 124)

The Bab tells us that God will never raise up a manifestation unless that prophet establishes the coming of the next prophet with a new book of revelation and a new covenant.

 **BABI RELIGION: "The Lord of the universe hath never raised up a prophet nor hath He sent down a Book unless He hath established His covenant with all men, calling for their acceptance of the next Revelation and of the next Book; inasmuch as the outpourings of His bounty are ceaseless and without limit." (The Bab, Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 85)**

"FEAR ye God and breathe not a word concerning His Most Great Remembrance other than what hath been ordained by God, inasmuch as We have established a separate covenant regarding Him with every Prophet and His followers. Indeed, We have not sent any Messenger without this binding covenant." "With each and every Prophet Whom We have sent down in the past, We have established a separate Covenant concerning the remembrance of God and His Day." (Selections from the Writings of the Bab, pp. 46 and 68)

Moses:

 **JUDAISM: Ezekiel: 38:17 "Thus saith The Lord GOD; I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets." Jeremiah: 28:8 "The prophets that have been before me and before thee of old." Genesis: 17:9 "And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations." 17:10 "This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee." Deuteronomy: 5:1 "And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them." 5:2 "The LORD our God made a covenant with us," 29:9 "Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do." Exodus: 18:19 "Hearken now unto my voice." 4:12 "Now therefore go, and I (God) will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say," 4:15 "And I will be with thy mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do."**

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy: 30:9 "And The LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for The LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as He rejoiced over thy fathers:" 30:10 "If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of The LORD thy God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law."**

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy: And, 18:15 "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me;" 8:18 "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put My words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." Psalms: 111:9 "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name." Malachi: 3:1 "Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in:"**

Jesus Christ:

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke: 1:70 "As he (God) spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began," 1:72 "To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant;" 1:73 "The oath which he sware to our father Abraham." 2 Peter: 3:2 "That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets." John: 12:49 "For I (Jesus Christ) have not spoken of myself; but The Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak." Galatians: 3:18 "For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise." 3:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith The Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;" 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews: 12:24 "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant," 8:6 "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises." 8:7 "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second." 8:8 "For finding fault with them, He saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:" 8:13 "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter: 1:10 "Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:" 1:11 "Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them (The Holy Prophets) did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." 2 Peter: 3:1 "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance;" 3:2 "That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us**

the apostles of The Lord and Saviour:" 3:3 "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts," 3:4 "And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

CHRISTIANITY: James: 5:7 "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of The Lord." 5:8 "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of The Lord draweth nigh." John: 15:26 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:" 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." 16:14 "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." John: 20:30 "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:" 20:31 "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

The Báb:



BABI RELIGION: "My Covenant with you is now accomplished. Gird up the loins of endeavour, and arise to diffuse My Cause. Be not dismayed at the sight of the degeneracy and perversity of this generation, for the Lord of the Covenant shall assuredly assist you. Verily, He shall surround you with His loving protection, and shall lead you from victory to victory." The Bab: (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 85)



BABI RELIGION: "FEAR ye God and breathe not a word concerning His Most Great Remembrance other than what hath been ordained by God, inasmuch as We have established a separate covenant regarding Him with every Prophet and His followers. Indeed, We have not sent any Messenger without this binding covenant." "Announce unto them

the joyful tidings that following this mighty Covenant there shall be everlasting reunion with God in the Paradise of His good-pleasure, nigh unto the Seat of Holiness. Verily God, The Lord of creation, is potent over all things." (Selections from the Writings of the Bab, pp. 45 and 50)

 **BABI RELIGION: "He Who is the Eternal Truth beareth me witness, whoso followeth this Book hath indeed followed all the past Scriptures which have been sent down from heaven by God, the Sovereign Truth. Verily, He is well informed of what ye do..." (Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 44)**

 **BABI RELIGION: "As He (The Bab) lay confined within the walls of the castle (Mah-Ku), He devoted His time to the composition of the Persian Bayan, the most weighty, the most illuminating and comprehensive of all His works. In it He laid down the laws and precepts of His Dispensation, plainly and emphatically announced the advent of a subsequent Revelation, and persistently urged His followers to seek and find Him whom God would make manifest, warning them lest they allow the mysteries and allusions in the Bayan to interfere with their recognition of His Cause." (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 247)**

 **BABI RELIGION: Again, "FEAR ye God and breathe not a word concerning His Most Great Remembrance other than what hath been ordained by God, inasmuch as We have established a separate covenant regarding Him with every Prophet and His followers. Indeed, We have not sent any Messenger without this binding covenant and We do not, of a truth, pass judgement upon anything except after the covenant of Him Who is the Supreme Gate hath been established." "The Lord of the universe hath never raised up a prophet nor hath He sent down a Book unless He hath established His covenant with all men, calling for their acceptance of the next Revelation and of the next Book; inasmuch as the outpourings of His bounty are ceaseless and without limit." (The Bab, Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 86)**

 **BABI RELIGION: “PRAISE be to Thee, O Lord, my Best Beloved! Make me steadfast in Thy Cause and grant that I may be reckoned among those who have not violated Thy Covenant nor followed the gods of their own idle fancy.” (The Bab, Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 215) “By the righteousness of God, We speak not according to selfish desire, nor hath a single letter of this Book been revealed save by the leave of God, The Sovereign Truth.” (Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 57)**

Bahá’u’lláh:

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “His Holiness Christ made a covenant concerning the Paraclete and gave the tidings of His coming. His Holiness the Prophet Muhammad made a covenant concerning His Holiness the Bab, and the Bab was the One promised by Muhammad, for Muhammad gave the tidings of His coming. The Bab made a Covenant concerning the Blessed Beauty of Bahá'u'lláh and gave the glad-tidings of His coming for the Blessed Beauty was the One promised by His Holiness the Bab. Bahá'u'lláh made a covenant concerning a promised One who will become manifest after one thousand or thousands of years.” (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 358) “The Covenant of God is like unto a vast and fathomless ocean.” (Bahá’í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith and Selections from the writings of Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 223)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Today, every wise, vigilant and foresighted person is awakened, and to him are unveiled the mysteries of the future which show that nothing save the power of the Covenant is able to stir and move the heart of humanity, just as the New and Old Testaments propounded throughout all regions the Cause of Christ and were the pulsating power in the body of the human world.” (Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 223)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O ye beloved of God, know that steadfastness and firmness in this new and wonderful Covenant is indeed the spirit that quickeneth the hearts which are overflowing with the love of the Glorious Lord; verily, it is the power which penetrates into the hearts of the people of the world!" (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith, p. 357)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: There are "more than one hundred volumes comprising the sacred Writings of Bahá'u'lláh." 'To build anew the whole world' is the claim and challenge of His Message, and the Kitáb-i-Aqdas is the Charter of the future world civilization that Bahá'u'lláh has come to raise up." (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 1) "This Wronged One (Bahá'u'lláh) speaketh wholly for the sake of God; thou too shouldst, likewise, for the sake of God, meditate upon those things that have been sent down and manifested, that haply thou mayest, on this blessed Day, take thy portion of the liberal effusions of Him Who is truly the All-Bountiful, and mayest not remain deprived thereof." (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 18) "I speak naught except at His (God's) bidding, and follow not, through the power of God and His might, except His truth." (Baha'u'llah, The Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 126)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The term progressive revelation is used to denote the continuous number of prophets, or manifestations of God, that have been sent to the earth as divine educators of mankind. The Reality of the divine Religions is one, because the Reality is one and cannot be two. All the prophets are united in their message, and unshaken. They are like the sun; in different seasons they ascend from different rising points on the horizon. Therefore every ancient prophet gave the glad tidings of the future, and every future has accepted the past." (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 28)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Manifestations of God are as the heavenly bodies. All have their appointed place and time of ascension, but the Light they give is the same. If one wishes to look for the sun rising, one does not look always at the same point because that point**

changes with the seasons. When one sees the sun rise further in the north one recognizes it, though it has risen at a different point." (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 67)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh will last until the coming of the next Manifestation of God, Whose advent will not take place before at least 'a full thousand years' will have elapsed. Bahá'u'lláh cautions against ascribing to 'this verse' anything other than its 'obvious meaning.'" (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 195)**

Another way to test the prophets of God for validity of their message and authenticity of their prophet hood status is found in the writings of the Bahá'í Faith; If they prove to be instrumental in the elevation and betterment of mankind.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is evident then that the proofs of the validity and inspiration of a prophet of God are the deeds of beneficent accomplishment and greatness emanating from Him. If He proves to be instrumental in the elevation and betterment of mankind, He is undoubtedly a valid and heavenly messenger." (The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 366)**

So, if a manifestation of God proves to be beneficial to the elevation and betterment of the world of mankind, showing true results over time, then it establishes that he is a true messenger from God and not just a good man trying to make a difference.

Here again, we can use this statement as a standard by which to test the validity of a messenger from God:

Moses:

Well I don't think anyone can argue that Moses hasn't had a profound effect on the world of humanity. Many of the laws he revealed are still in use in the world today. Moses took a down trodden

and dejected people that were living under the yoke of slavery in the land of Egypt and freed them. Moses then led them out of Egypt and after a number of years brought them to Palestine the land of milk and honey; and there for a number of years the Jewish people prospered under the guidance of Moses' laws, and commandments.

Moses brought civilization to a backward people who for a number of years under the guidance of kings like David and Solomon were the epitome of civilization. The Hebrew people were known through out the world for the quality of their civilization and a Hebrew man was considered to be a man of honor and good virtue.

I think we can say with out a doubt that Moses and his laws had profound effect on the world of humanity and the betterment in the conduct and uplift of mankind.

Jesus Christ:

Jesus though born a simple carpenters son, his teachings have revolutionized the world. There is not a country on this planet that is not in some way affected by his teachings. Literally half the planet bows to Jesus Christ's authority and guidance. His teachings influence us every day in our conduct and the way we interact with one another. Where Moses brought civilization to the Jewish people, Jesus Christ has brought civilization to the rest of the world. There are whole nations that are considered Christian nations where Jesus' teachings affect the way the nations interact with other nations.

The conduct of the individual Christians towards one another is one of goodwill and respect. A devout Christian man is thought to be a man of honor and good character a man of compassion and good moral judgment. Here again I think we can say that not only does Jesus Christ's teachings elevate the stature of the individual believers in Christ, but his teaching also elevates the nations of the world.

The Báb:

The Bábí Religion set the stage for The Bahá'í Faith in the mid 1800s, starting May 23 1844 in the town of Shiraz, when the prophet founder The Báb declared his mission from God, to his first disciple Mulla Husayn. The religion was only short lived serving its purpose by announcing to the world the coming of a great world redeemer, whose coming was foretold in all of the religions of God. We won't dwell on the turbulent few years of this religion, because this religion wasn't sent here to mankind to elevate the world of man, but to awaken the spirit of man, and prepare man for what was soon to come in just a few years from the inception of The Báb's religion. We will instead focus our attention on The Bahá'í Faith and how the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh revolutionized the world.

But I will make mention of a prophecy given to us by Daniel of the time of the end that fits here: Daniel: 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel: 12:4 "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased at the time of the end." I don't think there is anyone who wouldn't agree that this has happened. In today's world people truly are going to and fro in a mad rush all over the world, and one can hardly argue that there hasn't been a tremendous increase in the acquisition of knowledge. Since the year of 1844 knowledge has seemed to increase exponentially with the passing of time to the point that knowledge seems to be doubling itself within the passing of only a few years. I would say that this prophecy from Daniel about travel and increased knowledge has been fulfilled. And yet, "I read a report given by an official of the United States Patent Office who, in 1844, stated that in his opinion everything worthwhile had already been invented, and the Patent Office might as well close its doors. From that time on the Patent Office was overwhelmed with new inventions and discoveries." (William Sears, Thief in the Night, p. 48) The year 1844, the year of the declaration of The Báb, seems to be a pivotal point or seems to have set the stage for the revolution of knowledge in the world of mankind.

Bahá'u'lláh:

Bahá'u'lláh the prophet founder of the Bahá'í Faith was born in the early part of the nineteenth century in Persia. His religion though relatively new on the scene, only around a hundred and fifty years old, is starting to have a profound effect on the world. His teachings, examples of which are oneness of God, oneness of mankind, unity of all religions, equality of men and women, independent investigation of truth, unity of science and religion etc..... are pivotal to the development and wellbeing of the world today. The Bahá'í Faith is the fastest growing religion in the world today, Due in part, to its revolutionary teaching that deals with the problems we are facing in the world of today. The Bahá'í Faith is second only to Christianity in the number of nations around the world that has a substantial following.

"Since 1844, the date of the announcement of the Bab (the "gate" opening to the declaration of Baha'u'llah in 1863), this community has been committed to fundamental equality and interdependence of all people, regardless of gender, ethnicity, nationality or religious background. They have laboured to build a system of unified, just and sustainable social practice. The Baha'i spiritual vision, which has millenarian roots, sweeps us into the future. One day, Baha'is imagine, their system will demonstrate its efficacy to the rest of the world as a model of social organization for the age of global interdependence that we are entering." *Dr. Michael Welton*

"The Baha'i community is only now beginning to emerge from relative obscurity on the world scene. Increasingly, the Baha'i international community is well known for its work in such areas as human rights, the advancement of women, education and literacy, environmental preservation and sustainable development as well as peace organizations. From the UN's founding in 1945, the Baha'i International community (BIC) has been extremely involved with the UN system." *Dr. Michael Welton*

The Bahá'í Faith is a world leader in human rights and human reforms. Government agencies and private organizations alike seek out the Bahá'ís for advice and help to implement the much needed changes in the world. It is still too early to tell where this faith will

finally lead mankind but some of its goals are world peace and universal civilization or a truly civilized enlightened world.

As far as the affect this relatively new religion has on the betterment of the individual, one only has to look at the Bahá'í teachings as a guide. The writings teach that all men are one human family, so anywhere you travel in the world, if you meet a Bahá'í you are treated like family. Also anywhere you go where there are Bahá'ís they all have a common goal, the betterment of the world around them and a more spiritually enlightened mankind.

This is just a little information about Bahá'u'lláh and the Bahá'í Faith. Is this religion, the Bahá'í Faith, leading to the betterment of the world and the nations of the world? Yes! Is the Bahá'í Faith leading to a better mankind and an uplifting of the individual human soul? The answer it emphatically yes! So, Bahá'u'lláh does in-fact fit into this statement that "if he (the divine teacher) proves to be instrumental in the elevation and betterment of mankind, He is undoubtedly a valid and heavenly messenger (so he demonstrates to us that he is one of God's manifestations to man)." (The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 366)

No excessive poverty, the poor need to be cared for and God commands it.

306. <u>No excessive poverty, the poor need to be cared for and God commands it</u>. In the Bahá'í Faith the elimination of poverty throughout the world is one of the promises made by Bahá'u'lláh to man. The circumstances of the people must be such that no trace of poverty shall remain in the world of the future.

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "The arrangements of the circumstances of the people must be such that poverty shall disappear, and that every one as far as possible, according to his position and rank, shall be comfortable."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 29)

The idea of caring for the poor is not something that is found only in the Bahá'í Faith, Moses, in the bible, stressed the act of caring for the poor.  Judaism: Exodus 22:25 "If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury." Exodus 23:11 "But the seventh year thou shalt let it rest and lie still; that the poor of thy people may eat: and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat. In like manner thou shalt deal with thy vineyard, and with thy oliveyard." Leviticus 19:10 "And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD your God."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Make ye a provision for the destitute; be a treasury of riches for the poor."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 72)

 **JUDAISM: Leviticus 19:15 "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour." Leviticus 25:35 "And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee." Deuteronomy 15:4 "Save when there shall be no poor among you; for the LORD shall greatly bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it:" Deuteronomy 15:7 "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:" Deuteronomy 15:8 "But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth." Deuteronomy 15:11 "For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "They who are possessed of riches, however, must have the utmost regard for the poor, for great is the honor destined by God for those poor who are steadfast in patience."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 202)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 9:18 "For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever." Psalms 41:1 "<To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.> Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble." Proverbs 3:28 "Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee."**  **Christianity: Luke 14:13 "But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Each one of you must have great consideration for the poor and render them assistance. Organize in an effort to help them and prevent increase of poverty."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 36)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Corinthians 9:9 "(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever." Galatians 2:10 "We should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The poor shall possess a portion of the comforts of life. Just as the rich are surrounded by their luxuries in palaces, the poor will have at least their comfortable and pleasant places of abode; and just as the wealthy enjoy a variety of food, the needy shall have their necessities and no longer live in poverty. In short, a readjustment of the economic order will come about."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 102)

To be poor in all save God makes a man rich in heavenly blessings of God.

307. <u>To be poor in all save God makes a man rich in heavenly blessings of God</u>. It is a teaching in the Bahá'í Faith and to a lesser extent the writings of the Holy Bible that true riches are spiritual in nature and are bestowed upon us by God in his great mercy.

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Woe and misery to the soul that seeketh after comforts, riches, and earthly delights while neglecting to call God to mind!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 240)

 **<u>JUDAISM</u>: <u>Psalms</u> 27:16 "A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked."**

A man can be rich in the material wealth of this world and yet be essentially poor when it comes to the spirit and the things of God. What is needed for spiritual health is for man to keep wealth in perspective when it comes to God. True wealth is found in the next world and it comes to us from being blessed by God.

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "O YE THAT PRIDE YOURSELVES ON MORTAL RICHES!" "Know ye in truth that wealth is a mighty barrier between the seeker and his desire, the lover and his beloved. The rich, but for a few, shall in no wise attain the court of His presence nor enter the city of content and resignation. Well is it then with him, who, being rich, is not hindered by his riches from the eternal kingdom, nor deprived by them of imperishable dominion. By the Most Great Name! The splendor of such a wealthy man shall illuminate the dwellers of heaven even as the sun enlightens the people of the earth!"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 62:10 "If riches increase, set not your heart upon them." Proverbs 10:22 "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich....." It is the blessings of the Lord that maketh man truly rich, in a wealth that is everlasting, in a wealth that really matters because it will follow us throughout our entire existence. Proverbs 13:5 "A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame." Proverbs 13:6 "Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner." Proverbs 13:7 "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches." A man can have great accumulated earthly wealth in this earthly life spending all his time in the pursuit of earthly riches and yet have nothing that matters when it comes to the spiritual wealth that comes to us from God; while a man living in abject poverty could have the wealth of the ages by daily living the true spiritual life in the pursuit of the betterment of the condition of those around him. Tobias 4:21 "And fear not, my son, that we are made poor: for thou hast much wealth, if thou fear God, and depart from all sin, and do that which is pleasing in His sight." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF MY HANDMAID! Be not troubled in poverty nor confident in riches, for poverty is followed by riches, and riches are followed by poverty. Yet to be poor in all save God is a wondrous gift, belittle not the value thereof, for in the end it will make thee rich in God, and thus thou shalt know the meaning of the utterance, 'In truth ye are the poor,' and the holy words, 'God is the all-possessing,' shall even as the true morn break forth gloriously resplendent upon the horizon of the lover's heart, and abide secure on the throne of wealth."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 9:23 "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:" Jeremiah 9:24 "But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that**

I am the LORD which exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD." It is not for man to glory in his accomplishments for today they are yours but tomorrow these things belong to someone else. Whereas to glory in that you know the Father that is in heaven comes true wisdom, might and riches that are everlasting throughout eternity.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Rejoice not in the things ye possess; tonight they are yours, tomorrow others will possess them."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 137)

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 20:13 "Sing unto the LORD, praise ye the LORD: for he hath delivered the soul of the poor....." Jeremiah 22:16 "He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know Me? saith the LORD."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This station is the dying from self and the living in God, the being poor in self and rich in the Desired One. Poverty as here referred to signifieth being poor in the things of the created world, rich in the things of God's world."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Seven Valleys, p. 35)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 12:19 "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." Luke 12:20 "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Luke 12:21 "He that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Luke 12:22 "And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on." Luke 12:23 "Life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment." You can amass all the riches of the world but if you are not rich in God you have nothing in the end, all of your accumulated wealth cannot buy you into the good graces of the Desired One. Matthew 16:26 "For what**

is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Revelations 3:17 "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "The bright rays of union will obliterate the darkness of limitations, and the splendours of heaven will make the human heart to be even as a mine veined richly with the love of God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 19)

CHRISTIANITY: Romans 10:12 "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him." The Lord is the only one who is truly rich, He is the possessor of all and everyone else is of the poor and needy. Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." It is for us to call upon Him for our needs, God is a God of true wealth, which He lovingly bequeaths upon mankind, only God can truly help us. Romans 11:33 "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" The depths of true riches are, as I said before, associated with God and the having wisdom and knowledge of God are facets of true riches of a much bigger reality.
2 Corinthians 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." Christ chose to live in utter poverty that we might see by example just how little God really values the possessions of this world that we might not become attached to this earthly life and we may through Christ's words become truly rich in the things that are of God. John 14:2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Face ye all nations of the world with the constancy and the endurance of the people of Baha, that all men may be

astounded and ask how this could be, that your hearts are as well-springs of confidence and faith, and as mines so rich in the love of God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 219)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" 1 Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;" Paul states it plainly in Timothy, riches come to us from God, but true wealth is found in good works performed in the desire to please God and help His servants.

BAHA'I FAITH: "The wealth of the other world is nearness to God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 329)

CHRISTIANITY: Colossians 1:27 "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" Paul tells us that riches of the glory can come to us by having Christ in us or part of us, which again tells us that true riches come to us from being close to our Heavenly Father and not being tied down to the things of this earthly life. James 2:5 "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" Matthew 9:21 "Jesus said unto him (a rich man), If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven."

BAHA'I FAITH: "This poverty and these riches, this abasement and glory, this dominion, power, and the like, upon which the eyes and hearts of these vain and foolish souls are set, -- all these things fade into utter nothingness in that Court! Even as He hath said: 'O men! Ye are but paupers in need of God; but God is the Rich, the Self-Sufficing.'

By 'riches' therefore is meant independence of all else but God, and by 'poverty' the lack of things that are of God."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 131)

Prove all things and hold onto that which is good.

308. <u>This is my father's favorite religious saying, prove all things and hold onto that which is good</u>: In other words study the Holy Writings for yourself and ascertain what is true: ✝ <u>Christianity</u>: 1 <u>Thessalonians</u> 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Man must look for the truth in all things if he really wants to know what God is trying to say to him. <u>Romans</u> 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect....." ✡ <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Deuteronomy</u> 27:26 "Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them." If man only listens to hearsay he doesn't really know what is true from what is false, but if he proves all things for himself he doesn't blindly go down the wrong path being led by those who are blind themselves: <u>Isaiah</u> 34:16 "Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read." <u>Luke</u> 6:39 "Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?" So, I reiterate through Paul what I was first saying: ✝ <u>Christianity</u>: 1 <u>Thessalonians</u> 5:14 "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men." 1 <u>Thessalonians</u> 5:15 "See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men." This takes it a step farther, we are not only to render this teaching into our own lives, but, do so to all our fellow men as well. 2 <u>Timothy</u> 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God." 1 <u>Corinthians</u> 2:10 "The Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." The truly spiritual soul seeks for the deeper meaning in all things.

This is also a teaching found in the Bahá'í Faith as well as, unbenounced to many, the other religions of God:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The first teaching of Bahá'u'lláh is the duty incumbent upon all to investigate reality. What does it mean to investigate reality? It means that man must forget all hearsay and examine truth himself, for he does not know whether statements he hears are in accordance with reality or not. Wherever he finds truth or reality, he must hold to it, forsaking, discarding all else; for outside of reality there is naught but superstition and imagination."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 62)

God proves us.

309. God proves us. From the writings of God we know that God gives us tests and hardships in order to prove us to see if we truly deserve His bounties and grace. What is not so readily known though, is that God sends us difficulties in order to prepare our souls for a life that is not so earthly and He gives us hardships as bountiful favors to us, and in doing so, He only does what is best for us in the end:  **Bahá'í Faith: "God... does not only punish the wrongdoings of His children. He chastises because He is just, and He chastens because He loves. Having chastened them, He cannot, in His great mercy, leave them to their fate. Indeed, by the very act of chastening them He prepares them for the mission for which He has created them. 'My calamity is My providence,' He, by the mouth of Bahá'u'lláh, has assured them, 'outwardly it is fire and vengeance, but inwardly it is light and mercy.'"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Shoghi Effendi, The Promised Day is Come, p. 115)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 5:10 "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." Through hardships God is trying to strengthen our resolve and make our spirits more perfect through the difficulties we face in this life. 1**

Peter 1:7 "The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory." Judaism: Deuteronomy 8:2 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no." "that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;" Psalms 34:19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." Psalms 66:10 "For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried." (and purified)

CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Hebrews 12:7 "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" Hebrews 12:8 "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." If we put our reliance in God He will help us make it through the hardships we encounter and we will grow even stronger and become more spiritual in the process; preparing our souls for the next life. James 1:2 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;" 1:3 "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." James 5:10 "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience." 5:11 "Behold, we count them happy which endure." Ephesians 3:13 "Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at My tribulations for you, which is your glory." 2 Thessalonians 1:4 "So that we ourselves glory in you." Acts 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." 2 Corinthians 1:4 "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." 8:8 "I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know, moreover, that it is through such words that God proveth His servants and sifteth them, separating the believer from the infidel, the detached from the worldly, the pious from the profligate, the doer of good from the worker of iniquity, and so forth. Thus hath the Dove of holiness proclaimed: 'Do men think when they say 'We believe' they shall be let alone and not be put to proof?'"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He doth whatsoever He chooseth. Had the world been of any worth in His sight, He surely would never have allowed His enemies to possess it, even to the extent of a grain of mustard seed. He hath, however, caused you to be entangled with its affairs." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 209) "Busy not thyself with this world, for with fire We test the gold, and with gold We test Our servants." (Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)**

"Know verily that the purpose underlying all these symbolic terms and abstruse allusions, which emanate from the Revealers of God's holy Cause, hath been to test and prove the peoples of the world; that thereby the earth of the pure and illuminated hearts may be known from the perishable and barren soil. From time immemorial such hath been the way of God amidst His creatures, and to this testify the records of the sacred books." (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 49)

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 209 and Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 48 and The Arabic Hidden Words)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To the sincere ones, tests are as a gift from God, the Exalted, for a heroic person hasteneth, with the utmost joy and gladness, to the tests of a violent battlefield, but the coward is afraid and trembles and utters moaning and lamentation. Likewise, an expert student prepareth and memorizeth his lessons and exercises with the utmost effort, and in the day of examination he appeareth with infinite joy before the master. Likewise, the pure gold shineth radiantly in the fire of test. Consequently, it is made clear that for holy souls, trials are**

as the gift of God, the Exalted; but for weak souls they are an unexpected calamity." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 371) "The more often the pure gold is thrown into the furnace of test, the greater will become its purity and brilliancy and it will acquire a new splendor and brightness." (Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 302)

We need to be prudent with our talk and Expressions.

310. <u>We need to be prudent with our talk and Expressions</u>: Not everything we say is always suited for the occasion, or a timely utterance for those who are listening. We need to be prudent and cautious with our words and expressions; great harm can come from a lax expression or an unsuitable statement. <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Proverbs</u> 15:23 "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!" <u>Proverbs</u> 15:28 "The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things."

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Not everything that a man knoweth can be disclosed, nor can everything that he can disclose be regarded as timely, nor can every timely utterance be considered as suited to the capacity of those who hear it."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 268)

<u>JUDAISM</u>: <u>Proverbs</u> 29:11 "A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards." <u>Proverbs</u> 29:20 "Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him." <u>Ecclesiastes</u> 5:2 "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few." <u>Ecclesiastes</u> 10:12 "The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself." <u>Amos</u> 5:13 "Therefore the prudent shall keep

silence in that time; for it is an evil time." We need to learn to be prudent in what we say and guarded in our speech, for the fool blurts out words without thinking, while the prudent man thinks before he speaks. How will his words sound, is what he has got to say suited to the ears of the people he is speaking to, for there is: Ecclesiastes 3:7 "a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;" if a person wants to demonstrate wisdom in their actions. Christianity: Colossians 4:6 "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." 1 Timothy 6:4 "He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings," 1 Timothy 6:5 "Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." 1 Thessalonians 2:5 "For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:" 2:6 "Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ." Ephesians 4:29 "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Ephesians 4:30 "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

BAHA'I FAITH: "One word is like unto springtime causing the tender saplings of the rose-garden of knowledge to become verdant and flourishing, while another word is even as a deadly poison. It behoveth a prudent man of wisdom to speak with utmost leniency and forbearance so that the sweetness of his words may induce everyone to attain that which befitteth man's station."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 173)

Spiritual qualities found in the Bahá'í Faith are also found in Christianity.

311. <u>Spiritual qualities found in the Bahá'í Faith are also found in Christianity</u>. Many spiritual qualities that are part of Christianity are also found in the Bahá'í Faith, which is to be expected since both religions come from the same God and both religions are part of the one same religion.

Here are just a few spiritual qualities we can look for that are found in both religions: 1. Steadfastness, 2. Obedience, 3. Selflessness, 4. Charity, 5. Kindness, 6. Piety, 7. Goodness, 8. Trust-worthiness, 9. Purity, 10. Righteousness, 11. Humility, 12. Patience, 13. Mercy and Compassion, 14. Love, 15. Love of God, 16. 16. Be forgiving towards one another. 17. Truthfulness 18. Forbearance 19. Contentment and Resignation 20. True Reliance on, and Trust in God, in Everything.

1. Steadfastness, <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Job</u> "11:15 For then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, <u>thou shalt be stedfast</u>, and shalt not fear:" <u>Christianity</u>: 1 <u>Corinthians</u> 7:37 "Nevertheless <u>he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will</u>, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well."

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Vouchsafe Thy strength, O Almighty One, unto Thy weak creatures, and quicken them who are as dead, that haply they may find Thee, and may be led unto the ocean of Thy guidance, and may remain steadfast in Thy Cause."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 10)

<u>CHRISTIANITY</u>: 1 <u>Corinthians</u> 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, <u>be ye stedfast</u>, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 <u>Peter</u> 5:9 "Whom resist <u>stedfast in the faith</u>, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Blessed are the steadfastly enduring, they that are patient under ills and hardships, who lament not over anything that befalleth them, and who tread the path of resignation...."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 129)

2. Obedience, Judaism: Deuteronomy 13:4 "Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him." Deuteronomy 27:10 "Thou shalt therefore obey the voice of the LORD thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes, which I command thee this day." Christianity: Romans 5:19 "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "But this sect (The Bahá'í Faith) are steadfast in their own path and firmly established in conduct and faith; they are pious, devoted, tenacious, and consistent in such sort that they freely lay down their lives, and, after their own way, seek to please God; they are strenuous in effort and earnest in endeavor; they are the essence of obedience and most patient in hardship and trouble; they sacrifice their existence and raise no complaint or cry; what they utter is in truth the secret longing of the heart...."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 87)

CHRISTIANITY: 2 Corinthians 10:3 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:" 2 Corinthians 10:4 "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds)" 2 Corinthians 10:5 "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Corinthians 10:6 "And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." 2 Corinthians 10:7 "Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to

himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To be a real Christian is to be a servant in His Cause and Kingdom, to go forth under His banner of peace and love toward all mankind, to be self-sacrificing and obedient, to become quickened by the breaths of the Holy Spirit, to be mirrors reflecting the radiance of the divinity of Christ, to be fruitful trees in the garden of His planting, to refresh the world by the water of life of His teachings -- in all things to be like Him and filled with the spirit of His love."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 6)

3. Selflessness,

 **Christianity: John 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing.... I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." John 6:38 "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." Ephesians 6:6 "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;" Ephesians 6:7 "With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Lord! Give me to drink from the chalice of selflessness; with its robe clothe me, and in its ocean immerse me. Make me as dust in the pathway of Thy loved ones, and grant that I may offer up my soul for the earth ennobled by the footsteps of Thy chosen ones in Thy path, O Lord of Glory in the Highest."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 143:8 "Cause me to hear thy loving kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee." 143:9 "Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me." 143:10 "Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy spirit is good; lead me into**

the land of uprightness." 143:11 "Quicken me, O LORD, for Thy name's sake: for Thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Lord! Give me to drink from the chalice of selflessness; with its robe clothe me, and in its ocean immerse me. Make me as dust in the pathway of Thy loved ones, and grant that I may offer up my soul for the earth ennobled by the footsteps of Thy chosen ones in Thy path, O Lord of Glory in the Highest."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha

4. Charity,

Christianity: 1 Corinthians 13:2 "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

BAHA'I FAITH: "O people of the world, ye are all the fruit of one tree and the leaves of one branch. Walk with perfect charity, concord, affection, and agreement."

(Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 42)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 13:4 "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up," 1 Corinthians 16:14 "Let all your things be done with charity. 1 Timothy 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Charity is pleasing and praiseworthy in the sight of God and is regarded as a prince among goodly deeds."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 71)

JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 15:7 "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD

thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: 15:8 But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth." Deuteronomy 15:11 "For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land." Christianity: 1 Peter 4:8 "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." 1 John 3:17 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"

BAHA'I FAITH: "This is the Day whereon the Ocean of God's mercy hath been manifested unto men, the Day in which the Day Star of His loving-kindness hath shed its radiance upon them, the Day in which the clouds of His bountiful favor have overshadowed the whole of mankind. Now is the time to cheer and refresh the downcast through the invigorating breeze of love and fellowship, and the living waters of friendliness and charity."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 7)

5. Kindness, Christianity: Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." 1 Corinthians 13:4 "Charity suffereth long, and is kind;"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Enkindle with all your might in every meeting the light of the love of God, gladden and cheer every heart with the utmost loving-kindness, show forth your love to the strangers just as you show forth to your relations."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 353)

CHRISTIANITY: Colossians 3:12 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of

mind, meekness, longsuffering;" 2 Corinthians 6:3 "Giving no offence in anything, that the ministry be not blamed:" 6:4 "But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses," 6:5 "In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watching, in fasting;" 6:6 "By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned," 6:7 "By the word of truth, by the power of God," 6:11 "O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged." ✡ Judaism: 1 Kings 20:14 "And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the LORD, that I die not:" 20:15 "But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever:" Proverbs 19:20 "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end." "There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand." 19:22 "The desire of a man is his kindness:" Zechariah 7:8 "And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying," 7:9 "Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions (and kindness) every man to his brother:" 7:10 "And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart." (be filled with kindness for your fellow man).

BAHA'I FAITH: "Do not be content with showing friendship in words alone, let your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your path."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 15)

6. Piety, ✝ Christianity: 1 Timothy 5:4 "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God." ✡ Judaism: Numbers 15:40 "Remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy (pious) unto your God." Exodus 22:31 "And ye shall be holy (pious) men unto Me:"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All praise be to the one true God -- exalted be His glory -- inasmuch as He hath, through the Pen of the Most High, unlocked the doors of men's hearts. Every verse which this Pen hath revealed is a bright and shining portal that discloseth the glories of a saintly and pious life, of pure and stainless deeds."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 96)

7. Goodness,

Judaism: 2 Chronicles 6:41 ".....let thy saints rejoice in goodness." **Christianity: Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "May you, one and all, increase daily in spirituality, may you be strengthened in all goodness, may you be helped more and more by the Divine consolation, be made free by the Holy Spirit of God, and may the power of the Heavenly Kingdom live and work among you."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 112)

CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 5:9 "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth)" **Judaism: Psalms 125:4 "Do good, O LORD, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is Our wish and desire that every one of you may become a source of all goodness unto men, and an example of uprightness to mankind."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 315)

8. Trustworthiness,

Bahá'í Faith: "The fourth Taraz concerneth trustworthiness. Verily it is the door of security for all that dwell on earth and a token of glory on the part of the All-Merciful. He who partaketh thereof hath indeed partaken of the treasures of wealth and

prosperity. Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquility and security of the people. In truth the stability of every affair hath depended and doth depend upon it. All the domains of power, of grandeur and of wealth are illumined by its light."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 37)

JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 23:23 "That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform;" Numbers 32:24 do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth. Proverbs 8:6 "Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things." Proverbs 8:7 "For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips." Proverbs 8:8 "All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing forward or perverse in them.' Christianity: John 10:37 "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not." James 2:12 "So speak ye, and so do," To be trustworthy is to do that which you say you are going to do, be honest with your fellow man.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Cling ye to the hem of virtue, and hold fast to the cord of trustworthiness and piety. Concern yourselves with the things that benefit mankind, and not with your corrupt and selfish desires."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 29)

JUDAISM: Zechariah 8: 16 "These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:" Christianity: Acts 26:25 ".....speak forth the words of truth and soberness."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O people of God! Adorn your temples with the adornment of trustworthiness and piety."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 135)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 4:25 "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another." 1 Timothy 2:7 "Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity." 1 John 2:5 "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be discerning, then, and speak ye the truth, the very truth, if ye claim to be honest and high-minded."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 258)

9. Purity, Christianity: 1 Timothy 4:12 "Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Such must be the purity of your character and the degree of your renunciation, that the people of the earth may through you recognize and be drawn closer to the heavenly Father who is the Source of purity and grace. For none has seen the Father who is in heaven. You who are His spiritual children must by your deeds exemplify His virtues, and witness to His glory."**

(Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 92)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 24:3 "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?" Psalms 24:4 "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."** **Christianity: 1 Peter 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The virtues and attributes pertaining unto God are all evident and manifest, and have been mentioned and described in all the heavenly Books. Among them are trustworthiness, truthfulness, purity of heart while communing with God, forbearance, resignation to whatever the Almighty hath decreed, contentment with the things His Will hath provided, patience, nay, thankfulness in the midst of tribulation, and complete reliance, in all circumstances, upon Him. These rank, according to the estimate of God, among the highest and most laudable of all acts. All other acts are, and will ever remain, secondary and subordinate unto them."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 290)

10. Righteousness,  Judaism: Psalms 5:8 "Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness." Proverbs 10:2 "Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Alone amongst them all, this people hath arisen with aims purified of self, following the Teachings of God, most eagerly toiling and striving toward a single goal: to turn this nether dust into high heaven, to make of this world a mirror for the Kingdom, to change this world into a different world, and cause all humankind to adopt the ways of righteousness and a new manner of life."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 70)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;" 1 Timothy 6:11 ".....follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Do not busy yourselves in your own concerns; let your thoughts be fixed upon that which will rehabilitate the fortunes of mankind and sanctify the hearts and souls of men. This can best be achieved through pure and holy deeds, through a virtuous life and a goodly behavior. Valiant acts will ensure the triumph of this Cause,**

and a saintly character will reinforce its power. Cleave unto righteousness, O people of Baha! This, verily, is the commandment which this wronged One hath given unto you, and the first choice of His unrestrained Will for every one of you."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 93)

11. Humility, Judaism: Proverbs 16:19 "Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." Proverbs 29:23 "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit."

BAHA'I FAITH: "By good deeds, pure lives, humility and meekness be a lesson for others."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 365)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 18:4 "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 23:12 "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Humility exalteth man to the heaven of glory and power, whilst pride abaseth him to the depths of wretchedness and degradation."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 29)

12. Patience, Judaism: Ecclesiastes 7:8 Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Christianity: Romans 8:25 "But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." 2 Corinthians 6:4 "But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Therefore, thou must widen thy heart, dilate thy breast, have patience in plenty, calmness of soul and cut thyself from everything but God!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 363)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 6:11 "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." James 5:7 "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He must never seek to exalt himself above any one, must wash away from the tablet of his heart every trace of pride and vain-glory, must cling unto patience and resignation, observe silence and refrain from idle talk."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 264)

13. Mercy and Compassion,

 **Judaism: Zechariah 7:9 "Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Have mercy on yourselves and on your fellowmen, and suffer not the Cause of God -- a Cause which is immeasurably exalted above the inmost essence of sanctity -- to be sullied with the stain of your idle fancies, your unseemly and corrupt imaginations."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 299)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 3: 8 "Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:" 1 John 3:17 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how**

dwelleth the love of God in him?" 1 John 3:18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O ye beloved of the Lord! The Kingdom of God is founded upon equity and justice, and also upon mercy, compassion, and kindness to every living soul."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 158)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Jude 1:21 "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Jude 1:22 "And of some have compassion, making a difference:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization. The Almighty beareth Me witness: To act like the beasts of the field is unworthy of man. Those virtues that befit his dignity are forbearance, mercy, compassion and loving-kindness towards all the peoples and kindreds of the earth."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 214)

14. Love,  Christianity: John 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."  Judaism: Deuteronomy 10:17 "For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:" Deuteronomy 10:18 "He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment." Deuteronomy 10:19 "Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." Deuteronomy 10:20 "Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "During the last six thousand years nations have hated one another, it is now time to stop. War must cease. Let us be united and love one another."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 61)

 **JUDAISM: Leviticus 19:34 "But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." Proverbs 15:16 "Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith." Proverbs 15:17 "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith."**
 **Christianity: John 15:17 "These things I command you, that ye love one another." Romans 13:8 "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." 1 Thessalonians 3:12 "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The divine purpose is that men should live in unity, concord and agreement and should love one another."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 245)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:" 1 John 4:7 "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O ye beloved of the Lord! Commit not that which defileth the limpid stream of love or destroyeth the sweet fragrance of friendship. By the righteousness of the Lord! Ye were created to show love one to another and not perversity and rancour. Take pride not in love for yourselves but in love for your fellow-creatures. Glory not in**

love for your country, but in love for all mankind. Let your eye be chaste, your hand faithful, your tongue truthful and your heart enlightened."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 138)

15. Love of God,

Judaism: Deuteronomy 6:5 "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Christianity: Matthew 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

BAHA'I FAITH: "That Assembly resteth in the sheltering shade of the Lord of all bounties, and it is my hope that, as beseemeth that body, it will be favoured and invigorated by the breathings of the Holy Spirit, and that day by day ye will love God in ever greater measure, and become more tightly bound to the Beauty that abideth forever, to Him Who is the Light of the world. For love of God and spiritual attraction do cleanse and purify the human heart."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 202)

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 10:27 "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Jude 1:21 "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Having created the world and all that liveth and moveth therein, He, through the direct operation of His unconstrained and sovereign Will, chose to confer upon man the unique distinction and capacity to know Him and to love Him -- a capacity that must needs be regarded as the generating impulse and the primary purpose underlying the whole of creation...."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 65)

16. Be forgiving, Christianity: Matthew 6:14 "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:" Matthew 6:15 "But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matthew 18:21 "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" Matthew 18:22 "Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."

BAHA'I FAITH: "If a man strikes another, and he who is struck takes revenge by returning the blow, what advantage will he gain? Will this be a balm for his wound or a remedy for his pain? No, God forbid! In truth the two actions are the same: both are injuries; the only difference is that one occurred first, and the other afterward. Therefore, if he who is struck forgives, nay, if he acts in a manner contrary to that which has been used toward him, this is laudable."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 267)

CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Colossians 3:13 "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Judaism: Sirach 28:2 "Forgive thy neighbour the hurt that he hath done unto thee, so shall thy sins also be forgiven when thou prayest." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) Genesis 50:17 "So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father...." Wisdom 18:2 "But for that they did not hurt them now, of whom they had been wronged before, they thanked them, and besought them pardon for that they had been enemies." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We must look upon our enemies with a sin-covering eye and act with justice when confronted with any injustice whatsoever, forgive all, consider the whole of humanity as our own family, the whole earth as our own country, be sympathetic with all suffering, nurse the sick, offer a shelter to the exiled, help the poor and those in need, dress all wounds and share the happiness of each one."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 41)

17. truthfulness.

Judaism: Deuteronomy 32:4 "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." Zechariah 8:16 "These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:" 8:17 "And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD." Proverbs 12:17 "He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit." Deuteronomy 23:23 "That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform;"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All religions teach that we must do good, that we must be generous, sincere, truthful, law-abiding, and faithful; all this is reasonable, and logically the only way in which humanity can progress."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 141)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 26:25 ".....speak forth the words of truth and soberness." 2 Corinthians 13:8 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. Ephesians 4:25 "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another." James 3:14 "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth." 1 John 3:17 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love**

of God in him?" 3:18 "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When we speak let our speech be an outward evidence of the inner light, for we must speak the truth, otherwise we shall not act wisely."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 103)

18. Forbearance. (refrain from, patience, tolerance, mercifulness, resignation)

Judaism: Exodus 23:4 "If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again." Exodus 23:5 "If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him." Ezekiel 3:27 But when I speak with thee, I will open thy mouth, and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; He that heareth, let him hear; and he that forbeareth, let him forbear: Christianity: Colossians 3:12 "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;" 3:13 "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Romans 3:21 "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;" 3:22 "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" 3:24 "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:" 3:25 "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;" 3:26 "To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." 2 Corinthians 12:6 "For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be,"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the time of Moses, there were ten crimes punishable by death. When Christ came this was changed; the old axiom 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth' was converted into 'Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you', the stern old law being changed into one of love, mercy and forbearance!"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 142)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We must strive with life and heart that, day by day, our deeds may be better, our conduct more beautiful and our forbearance greater."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 306)

19. Contentment and Resignation.

Christianity: 1 Timothy 6:6 "But godliness with contentment is great gain." "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." "For the love of money is the root of all evil:" Luke 3:14 "Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content." Philippians 4:11 "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God." Resign yourself to God's will. 1 Peter 5:4 "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away." "Ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder." "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:" "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" "Whom resist stedfast in the faith (content), knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect,

stablish, strengthen, settle you." "To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 14:29 "Be satisfied (be contented); that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest." Jeremiah 31:14 ".....Be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD." Proverbs 19:23 "The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied (contented); he shall not be visited with evil." Isaiah 60:7 "They shall come up with acceptance on mine altar, and I will glorify the house of my glory." Sirach 29:22 "Better is the life of a poor man in a mean cottage, than delicate fare in another man's house." "Be it little or much, hold thee contented," (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The virtues and attributes pertaining unto God are all evident and manifest, and have been mentioned and described in all the heavenly Books. Among them are trustworthiness, truthfulness, purity of heart while communing with God, forbearance, resignation to whatever the Almighty hath decreed, contentment with the things His Will hath provided, patience, nay, thankfulness in the midst of tribulation, and complete reliance, in all circumstances, upon Him. These rank, according to the estimate of God, among the highest and most laudable of all acts. All other acts are, and will ever remain, secondary and subordinate unto them...."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 290)

20. Reliance on, and trust in God, in everything:

 **Judaism: 2 Chronicles 16:8 "Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand." 2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." Job 31:24 "Thou (The Lord) art my (reliance) confidence;" Sirach 2:10 "Look at the generations of old, and see; did ever any trust in the Lord, and was confounded? or did any abide in his fear, and was forsaken? or whom did he ever despise, that called upon him?" "For**

the Lord is full of compassion and mercy, longsuffering, and very pitiful, and forgiveth sins, and saveth in time of affliction." The lord can be trusted and relied on in everything we do. ✝ Christianity: Ephesians 3:11 "Our Lord, In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him." 1:12 "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ." 1:13 "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," 1 John 3:21 "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." 1 Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." 2 Corinthians 1:9 "We should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: 1:10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us." Trust and confidence in God is reliance on God.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Thank thou God for He hath guided thee to the path of His Kingdom and provided thee with the fruit of the Tree of Life, which is planted in the middle of the Ferdowce (i.e., the highest Paradise). Yea, this fruit is the knowing God and love for God, and reliance upon God and is the virtue with which the reality of man is adorned,"

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v3, p. 516)

BAHA'I FAITH: "In all thine affairs put thy reliance in God, and commit them unto Him. He will render thee a reward which the Book hath ordained as great. Occupy thyself, during these fleeting days of thy life, with such deeds as will diffuse the fragrance of Divine good pleasure, and will be adorned with the ornament of His acceptance."
"It behooveth whosoever hath set his face towards the Most Sublime Horizon to cleave tenaciously unto the cord of patience, and to put his reliance in God, the Help in Peril, the Unconstrained."
"If anyone revile you, or trouble touch you, in the path of God, be patient, and put your trust in Him Who heareth, Who seeth."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, pp. 24, 76 and 98)

There are many other spiritual qualities and practices that are found in Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith that I haven't mentioned here because to do so would take volumes of paper and hours of reading time. What I have tried to do here is demonstrate to the reader, with these few similarities, that Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith both have the same spiritual qualities and both religions came about by the same desire from the one true God to educate mankind and uplift the human race.

Who are we to question God.

312. Who are we to question God, to test God, to dispute idly with God over that which is beyond our understanding. To do so is nothing but to display our own short comings and uncontrolled arrogance: How can we assume to have the knowledge and understanding to question the will of god? The books of the religions of God tell us this is far beyond us and our capacity and limited comprehension.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "How can man, the created, understand the reality of the pure Essence of the Creator?"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 147)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 9:20 "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"**

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 6:16 "Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God," Ye shall not question His motives." Isaiah 49:9 "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds**

of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?"

How can the created begin to understand what God is doing with us or what His desire is for us. That is like the painting trying to understand the painter who painted it. The difference between the two is so vast that the one cannot began to comprehend the difference between the two. God is so far beyond anything we can comprehend that to even try is just pure imagination on our part.

Since this is the case who are we to question the signs of God and dispute His actions with us on this plane of existence. Only He knows what is best for us in this life and in the next life to come. We can't even begin to comprehend the enormity of what He has in store for us, so how do we know what is best for us? We don't; so who are we to idly question God?

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The most burning fire is to question the signs of God, to dispute idly that which He hath revealed, to deny Him and carry one's self proudly before Him."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 156)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Titus 3:9 "Avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain." Luke and Matthew 4:12 "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Romans 9:20 "Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This is not the day for any man to question his Lord. It behoveth whosoever hath hearkened to the Call of God, as voiced by Him Who is the Day Spring of Glory, to arise and cry out: 'Here am I, here am I, O Lord of all Names; here am I, here am I, O Maker of the heavens! I testify that, through Thy Revelation, the things hidden in the Books of God have been revealed, and that whatsoever**

hath been recorded by Thy Messengers in the sacred Scriptures hath been fulfilled.'"

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 163)

There are times when God does want us to ask questions of Him.

313. <u>There are times when God does want us to ask questions of Him. Be observant of the teachings of God and be ready to ask questions when need be for better understanding, and be not of those that follow the words of others blindly</u>: <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Luke</u> 6:39 "And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "THIS Wronged One hath perused thy letter in the Most Great Prison and is apprised of thine enquiry concerning the commandments of God on the subjects of resurrection and the means of livelihood. Thou hast done well to ask these questions, for the benefit thereof will be gained by thyself as well as other servants of God, both outwardly and inwardly. Verily thy Lord knoweth all things and readily answereth the call."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 267)

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "The Báb forbade His followers to ask questions of Him Whom God will make manifest (Bahá'u'lláh), unless their questions were submitted in writing and pertained to subjects worthy of His lofty station. (See Selections from the Writings of the Báb.) Bahá'u'lláh removes this prohibition of the Báb. He invites the believers to ask such questions as they 'need to ask' and He cautions them to refrain from posing 'idle questions' of the kind which preoccupied 'the men of former Times.'"

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 227)

CHRISTIANITY: Thomas 2:6 "His (Jesus') disciples questioned Him and said to Him, 'Do you want us to fast? How shall we pray? Shall we give alms? What diet shall we observe?' Jesus said, 'Do not tell lies, and do not do what you hate, for all things are plain in the sight of Heaven. For nothing hidden will not become manifest, and nothing covered will remain without being uncovered.'" (Other Apocrypha, The Gospel of Thomas) Judaism: Deuteronomy 13:14 "Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, if it be truth," Christianity: John 11:22 "But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee." Ephesians 3:20 "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," 3:21 "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

BAHA'I FAITH: "It behoveth everyone in this Day to ask God that which he desireth, and thy Lord will heed his petition with wondrous and undeniable verses." "For the benefit thereof will be gained by thyself as well as other servants of God, both outwardly and inwardly. Verily thy Lord knoweth all things and readily answereth the call."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, pp. 183 and 267)

Jesus was raised from the dead in a spiritual form.

314. Jesus was raised from the dead in a spiritual form: There is some question in Christianity as to how Jesus was raised from the dead? Some think it was the physical body of Christ that ascended up into Heaven, while others believe it was the spiritual form of Christ that went up to God. If we look into the bible we can see the

reason for this belief. ✝ Christianity: Luke 24:31 "And their eyes were opened, and they knew him (Jesus); and he vanished out of their sight." Luke 24:36 "And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you." Luke 24:37 "But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit." Jesus appears and disappears in front of his disciples like a ghost without a physical body. John 20:14 "And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus." John 20:17 "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God." Jesus was on the earth but unrecognizable to Mary who knew Christ well and he told her not to touch him because he hadn't yet ascended. John 20:19 "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you." John 20:26 "And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you." This is why they were afraid and thought Jesus to be a spirit, Christ repeatedly appears to his disciples though John repeatedly stresses that all the doors are shut but Jesus is able to repeatedly materialize before them though the room was sealed shut. A physical body does not walk through closed doors so Christ had to be in spiritual form much the same way he ascended up into heaven, Luke 24:51 "And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven." Physical bodies don't float in the air. Birds don't float in the air they glide using Bernoulli's principle to stay aloft. Nor was there reason for a physical body to float physically up to a cloud because Paul tells us: 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God! If flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven what use did Jesus Christ have for a physical body that cannot go to God in the first place? I have no doubt that Christ through God's might and power is able to make himself appear physical for his disciples but in the end it

was the spiritual form of Christ that went to his father in heaven not a physical body. Luke 21:31 "So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 17:20 "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:" Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or lo there! for behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

The kingdom of God cometh not with observation, heaven is found within us. So, again, I repeat the question; of what use is a physical body in a spiritual place, where the physical body has no place for existence and physical existence is not welcomed beyond physical nature?

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The resurrections of the Divine Manifestations are not of the body. All Their states, Their conditions, Their acts, the things They have established, Their teachings, Their expressions, Their parables and Their instructions have a spiritual and divine signification, and have no connection with material things."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 102)

Here are some other statements of interest I found in the Gospels that clearly indicate that Jesus appeared to his followers in forms they didn't recognize as being Jesus and others where he appeared to having no form at all. Christianity: Mark 16:9 "Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils." Mark 16:10 "And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept." Mark 16:11 "And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not." Mark 16:12 "After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country." Jesus appears to two of his disciples in another form; how can a body that is physical in nature appear in a different form or change its form as it suits him? Jesus also appears to his disciples on the shore by a body of water the disciples are out in a

boat on and they knew him not. John 21:4 "But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus." John 21:12 "Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord." And when Jesus appears to Paul he doesn't appear with a body at all he just appears as light and a voice. Acts 9:3 "And as he (Paul) journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:" Acts 9:4 "And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Acts 9:5 "And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Acts 9:6 "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." Acts 9:7 "And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man." Does this sound like Jesus in a physical body? Jesus was raised in the spirit, but what becomes readily apparent is that on the other side spirits of great power are not limited to just a spiritual form but they can appear to be quite physical in the physical realm when the need arises: Hebrews 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." ✡ Judaism: Genesis 19:1 "And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;" Genesis 19:2 "And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways." Some angels apparently, as I said, can appear quite physical when they have need to, but is this really surprising when one considers the unfathomable powers of God. ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

The Rapture.

315. The Rapture. The rapture is believed, by many Christians, to be a time when, just before or during the second coming of Christ, those people who truly believe in Christ will be taken up into heaven, while all the unbelievers or people who just aren't good enough will be left behind on the earth. ✝ Christianity: Matthew 24:40 "Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Matthew 24:41 "Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Matthew 24:42 "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Luke 17:34 "I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left." Luke 17:35 "Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Luke 17:36 "Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." You can see, after reading this, how it could easily be interpreted that there will be a mass exodus of the believers in Christ by many Christians and if this wasn't enough Paul goes on further to say: 1 Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:" 1 Thessalonians 4:17 "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." This latter statement, from the Apostle Paul, is the scene many Christians envision, in their mind's eye, whenever they hear the word rapture mentioned in their presents. But, if we bear in mind that the bible indicates that of the people who are left behind, some of these people still won't believe, what their eyes should have told them, who still stand against God and his ways; it boggles the mind! ✝ Christianity: Revelations 9:21 "Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts." Revelations 16:9 "And they repented not to give him glory." How could anyone still alive and breathing on this earth fail to see and recognize Christ and perceive what had just occurred? (See coming down on the clouds for further information). Revelations 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him." John states it clearly all eyes will see him. If this is the case why would the people still deny Jesus? If, however, we bear in mind the symbolic, non-literal nature of much of the holy scriptures it might just account for this lack of vision on the

part of so many of these people. What we may find here, if we pause to really think about it, is that there might be another understanding to these statements all together. Matthew 11:15 "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Another possible interpretation of the rapture could be this. When the holy one comes, individuals that are spiritually receptive, looking out on the world with spiritual eyes will be symbolically taken up into the spiritual heavens, by recognizing God's new holy word for the day and accepting God's new chosen one on the earth. And, as this happens, the other people, not seeing or understanding God's new message for the day, they will remain earthly, not seeing anything before them but a man, just as the scribes and Pharisees saw in the time of Jesus' first coming.

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 1:20 "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you," 1 John 2:18 "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." John and Peter seem pretty clear on this, with the advent of Jesus Christ's message to mankind, the impetus of one heavenly cycle, came to a close with the dawning of another progressive heavenly cycle to mankind.**

Also, taking this train of reasoning further we find that not only did Jesus of Nazareth usher in the last days on earth with his coming, but he also brought about the end of the world as they knew it by his sacrifice.

 **CHRISTIANITY: (Hebrews 9:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."**

Here it clearly states that Jesus' death was during the end of the world, but as we are now living and breathing, it is clearly easy to see that the term used here, end of the world, clearly was not meant to be

a physical, literal event, but a spiritual, symbolic event denoting, not the physical end of the world, but symbolically the spiritual ending of heavenly events. ✝ Christianity: Thomas 2:50 "We are… (God's) children, we are the elect of the Living Father.' If they ask you, 'What is the sign of your Father in you?' say to them, 'It is movement and repose.'" 2:60 "He said to them, 'You too, look for a place for yourself within the Repose (rapture), lest you become a corpse," 2:61 "Jesus said, 'Two will rest on a bed: the one will die, and other will live," or one will be spiritually blind and dead to the word of God, becoming a symbolic corpse, and the other will be liberated and live onto the word of God or be spiritually awakened and be taken up into the non-literal kingdom of God that is found within us: ✝ Christianity: Luke 17:20 "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:" Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." Thomas 2:3 "The Kingdom is inside of you, and it is outside of you," or found within us and all around us where ever we might find ourselves.

Clearly the repose talked about here by Thomas is not the rest in the grave envisioned by many when they think of the meaning of the word repose, but something fundamentally different. The true believer bows and shows reverence to God when he reposes himself physically or mentally in worship to God, so the meaning of the word is apparently different symbolically from what first comes to mind: ✝ Christianity: Thomas 2:90 "Jesus said, 'Come unto me and you will find repose for yourselves.'" Thomas 2:51 "His (Jesus') disciples said to Him, 'When will the repose of the dead come about (the awakening of the rapture possibly, one will die and one will live), and when will the new world come?' He said to them, 'What you look forward to has already come, but you do not recognize it.'" (The Gospel of Thomas)

The coming of the new earth has already happened but they did not recognize it, and the coming of the rapture possibly or maybe finding rest in the kingdom of God on this earth and Surly, all these spiritual statements from Paul and Christ should have all kinds of warning alarms going off inside your heads, saying these statements from Paul and Christ, and John and Peter, and all the rest of the prophets of old, are not to be taken literally. These events are spiritually discerned and

should be looked at with a spiritual non-literal kind of examining and reasoning frame of mind.

 **JUDAISM: JUDAISM: Esdras 2:34 "And therefore I say unto you, O ye heathen, that hear and understand, look for your Shepherd, he shall give you everlasting rest; for he is nigh at hand, that shall come in the end of the world." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Esdras 2 (Ezra 4))**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If only thou couldst know what a high station is destined for those souls who are severed from the world, are powerfully attracted to the Faith, and are teaching, under the sheltering shadow of Bahá'u'lláh! How thou wouldst rejoice, how thou wouldst, in exultation and rapture, spread thy wings and soar heavenward for being a follower of such a way, and a traveler toward such a Kingdom." (Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 100)**

"Lift Thou to these parched lips the bounteous and soft-flowing waters of heaven, raise up these dead to everlasting life" (Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 7)

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 40:3 "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:5 "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." Here we have a prophecy about the first coming of Jesus Christ. We know this prophecy from Isaiah is about Jesus because he mentions the voice crying in the wilderness preparing the way which is John the Baptist. What the next statement from Isaiah states is that the glory of the lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. Well, anyone who has studied the New Testament at all knows this is not the way it literally happened with Christ's first coming. The glory of the Lord (Jesus Christ here) was revealed gradually and all flesh did not physically see Jesus together at once. These statements are symbolic in nature not to be taken literally. Jesus' coming did fulfill this prophecy of Isaiah but it took**

those with eyes to see and ears to hear to understand what they were seeing and hearing ✝ Christianity: Matthew 13:13 "because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand."

We, as Bahá'ís, look at the second coming of Christ as being fulfilled just as symbolically as the first coming of Christ was fulfilled symbolically. He was born to a physical mother and grew up around people and when he declared himself to mankind only those people with spiritual vision recognized the truth of his words, while the rest of the people turned against him.

Now, if we look further at this whole concept of this word rapture this will also tell us something. When you are enraptured; you feel ecstasy or much delight over something. Here, in this case, it would mean that the believer is feeling enraptured with God and the one whom God has sent to mankind; while the one who is taking the writings of God completely literally will not realize God's chosen one has come. ✹ Bahá'í Faith: "How thou wouldst rejoice, how thou wouldst, in exultation and rapture, spread thy wings and soar heavenward for being a follower of such a way, and a traveler toward such a Kingdom."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 100)

Question, does God actually do things like this, where one man could be considering himself spiritually in heaven, while his physical body is still living on the earth? If we look for this answer, we will find it in some of Jesus Christ's direct statements and we will find the answer is emphatically yes! ✝ Christianity: John 6:38 "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." John 3:13 "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." Here Jesus Christ is standing on the earth talking with his disciples, while stating he is spiritually in heaven with God. What other explanation could there be here? Jesus is standing on the earth with his disciples and yet he not only claims that he came down from heaven, but he

clearly states that he is right there and then currently in heaven. If this statement from Jesus isn't enough to give one pause for thought Christ later claims that he is the bread which came down from heaven to give life to the world. Christianity: John 6:33 "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world." Christ also states: John 6:38 "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." One can see how the people of that time listening to Christ's spiritual statements reacted: John 6:42 "And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?" The people that were listening to Jesus back then responded much the same way as many people living in this day and time respond; they look for the complete literal meaning of the word and miss the essences of the spirit within the words. John 6:50 "This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die." These, you can see, are also, completely spiritual words for those with ears to hear with. It's obvious that Jesus was not physically made of bread he was physically a man and I think Jesus states it best in John:

CHRISTIANITY: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." God is spirit and if we wish to come to Him and understand what He is doing here we have to think on the spiritual level and try to approach Him with spiritual minds and enraptured hearts. John 6:51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." Need any more be said about the spiritual nature of Christ's words? Maybe this from the apostle Paul: Acts 10:42 "And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead." The quick being those people being spiritually alive and open to the word of God, while the dead are those individuals who are spiritually blind to the word of God. Christ puts it best like this: Matthew 8:22 "But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Bugle hath sounded, the Trumpet hath been blown, the Crier hath raised his call, and all upon the earth have swooned away -- but still do the dead, in the tombs of their bodies, sleep on."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 13)

Another matter to give one pause for thought about the possible spiritual nature of the word of God being used here is, again in the scriptures themselves. At the time of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ the earth shook and the graves opened up and the bodies of the dead rose from out of the earth and went into the city to be with the people.  **Christianity: Matthew 27:51 "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;" Matthew 27:52 "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose," Matthew 27:53 "And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." The dead came out of their graves and not only walked, but appeared before many people.**

In all the history of the Roman Empire, or any other history for that matter, not once in the annals of history according to anything I have researched or ever heard about has there ever been any record of the dead coming out of their graves and visiting the living. Such a sobering and monumental event would surely have made it into some history books. It is not every day the dead come out of their graves and walk among the living; surely someone of importance would have noticed living cadavers walking and talking? But then again maybe this event was not recorded in the annals of history because this statement like possibly that of the rapture was never meant to be taken literally and there is a spiritual symbolic underlying message to be sought here?

Finally if we turn to  **Judaism: Micah 5:2 we find the location of the city where Christ was to be born, Bethlehem. Micah 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel;" Micah was pretty clear on the location of where Christ was to**

come from during his first coming, and I thought, if he was so accurate on the first coming, what about Christ's return? I found that if I looked further in Micah I found that on his return Jesus was not coming down on clouds but was coming from a certain location on the earth:

 **JUDAISM: Micah 7:12 "In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain." The Assyrian Empire at one time covered great territory during the time of Micah. The prophet Jeremiah writes Jeremiah 49:38 "And I will set my throne in Elam" (Persia). Christ's throne will be in Persia a physical place right here on this earth in what used to be part of the old Assyrian Empire.**

And for those people who just can't believe that the rapture is purely spiritual you should consider this: Christianity: 1 Corinthians 15:40 "There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another." 1 Corinthians 15:44 "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body." There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 1 Corinthians 15:49 "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." 1 Corinthians 15:50 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." So in short, the rapture can't be taken as a physical event because the physical body of man cannot be part of the kingdom of God, or the physical body of man can't go to heaven because heaven is not a physical place. Luke 17:20 "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:" Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there!" Heaven is not a physical place that can be observed. You can't say it is located here or it is located there for it has no physical presents. Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." So, I ask the question, if heaven has no physical presents why would God take up physical human bodies of men that have presents to a place they can't see or touch? Where's the logic?

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Observe: those who in appearance were physically alive, Christ considered dead; for life is the eternal life, and existence is the real existence. Wherever in the Holy Books they speak of raising the dead, the meaning is that the dead were blessed by eternal life; where it is said that the blind received sight, the signification is that he obtained the true perception; where it is said a deaf man received hearing, the meaning is that he acquired spiritual and heavenly hearing."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 101)

We are to use reason to understand the writings of God.

316. We are to use reason to understand the writings of God: In the Bahá'í writings one of the things we are encouraged to do is use our minds and try and reason out the deeper meaning of God's holy words. This form of reasoning is also in evidence in the bible. Judaism: Ecclesiastes 1:13 "And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." Ecclesiastes 7:23 "All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me." Ecclesiastes 7:24 "That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?" Ecclesiastes 7:25 "I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things," Proverbs 8:12 "I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge," 1 Kings 12:7 Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you. Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:" Job 29:16 "The cause which I knew not I searched out." Proverbs 21:16 "The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God has created in man the power of reason, whereby man is enabled to investigate reality. God has not intended man to imitate blindly his fathers and ancestors. He has endowed him**

with mind, or the faculty of reasoning, by the exercise of which he is to investigate and discover the truth, and that which he finds real and true he must accept. He must not be an imitator or blind follower of any soul. He must not rely implicitly upon the opinion of any man without investigation; nay, each soul must seek intelligently and independently, arriving at a real conclusion and bound only by that reality. The greatest cause of bereavement and disheartening in the world of humanity is ignorance based upon blind imitation." (Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 73)

Bahá'í Faith: "Therefore, make use of intelligence and reason so that you may dispel these dense clouds from the horizon of human hearts and all hold to the one reality of all the Prophets. It is most certain that if human souls exercise their respective reason and intelligence upon the divine questions, the power of God will dispel every difficulty, and the eternal realities will appear as one light, one truth, one love, one God and a peace that is universal." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 79)

CHRISTIANITY: Acts 6:2 "Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, 'It is not reason that we should leave the word of God,'" 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;" 4:5 "Walk in wisdom." 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God," (Acts, Colossians and James) 4:12 "Beloved, think," 12:6 "Man should think." 16:23 "He that wanteth understanding will think." 10:7 "let him of himself think." 8:2 "And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." ((Sirach (Apocrypha) 1 Peter and Corinthians 1 and 2))

BAHA'I FAITH: "God has given man the eye of investigation by which he may see and recognize truth. He has endowed man with ears that he may hear the message of reality and conferred upon him the gift of reason by which he may discover things for himself. This is his endowment and equipment for the investigation of reality. Man is not intended to see through the eyes of another, hear through another's ears nor comprehend with another's brain. Each human creature has individual endowment, power and responsibility in the creative plan of

God. Therefore depend upon your own reason and judgment and adhere to the outcome of your own investigation;"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 75)

Renounce our desires and will unto God's divine all informed wisdom.

317. <u>Renounce our desires and will unto God's divine all informed wisdom</u>: <u>Bahá'í Faith</u>: "Commit thyself to God; give up thy will and choose that of God; abandon thy desire and lay hold on that of God; that thou mayest be a holy, spiritual and heavenly example."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 89)

<u>CHRISTIANITY</u>: <u>Hebrews</u> 10:9 "Then said he, Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God." <u>Matthew</u> 6:10 "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." <u>Romans</u> 6:13 "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but <u>yield yourselves unto God</u>, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." <u>Ephesians</u> 3:14 "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Psalms</u> 40:8 "I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart." 143:10 "Teach me to do Thy will;" 2 <u>Chronicles</u> 30:8 "Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but <u>yield yourselves unto the LORD</u>, and enter into His sanctuary, which He hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you." 1 <u>Esdras</u> 8:15 "Offer sacrifices unto the Lord." "And whatsoever thou and thy brethren will do, that do, according to the will of thy God." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Aid me, O my Lord, to surrender myself wholly to Thy Will, and to arise and serve Thee, for I cherish this earthly life for no other purpose than to compass the Tabernacle of Thy Revelation

and the Seat of Thy Glory. Thou seest me, O my God, detached from all else but Thee, and humble and subservient to Thy Will. Deal with me as it beseemeth Thee, and as it befitteth Thy highness and great glory."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 311)

Resurrection is a term used in the bible to denote the raising of the dead, but there is more to it than that.

318. Resurrection is a term used in the bible to denote the raising of the dead, but there is more to it than that: Bahá'ís do not look at the raising of the dead during the time of the resurrection as an event that will take place physically in this physical plane of existence, but as a spiritual event where the dead coming to life means man now has the belief in the new word of God and starts living the life accordingly: ✡ Judaism: Jeremiah 8:7 "Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD." Jeremiah tells us that the people don't recognize God's appointed times for judgment, resurrection, returns of the messengers, etc... The people don't recognize these events even when it's happening all around them: ✝ Christianity: Thomas 2:51 "His (Jesus') disciples said to Him, 'When will the repose of the dead come about, and when will the new world come?' He said to them, 'What you look forward to has already come, but you do not recognize it.'" (The Gospel of Thomas) In other wards these events are already taking place and the people of his time are too spiritually blind to see it? ✝ Christianity: Matthew 22:31 "But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying," Matthew 22:32 "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Luke 20:36 "Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children

of the resurrection." Luke 20:37 "Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Luke 20:38 "For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him." According to Luke the dead have already risen. Jesus tells us in Luke that he considers the dead to have already risen during his ministry, "Now that the dead are raised," and Jesus earlier in Matthew states that "the resurrection of the dead," was happening, and in Luke 20:36 the children of the resurrection which he states in Luke 20:37 are the dead being raised, as well as, in Thomas the repose of the dead is happening and the new earth is visible only they don't spiritually see it; which argues the point that the spiritual dead had risen up from the graves of their bodies and became living souls believing in Christ. Judaism: Proverbs 21:16 "The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead." Christianity: Romans 6:13 "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead." Ephesians 5:14 "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead."

BAHA'I FAITH: "And the time of the dead, that they should be judged means that the time has come that the dead, that is to say, those who are deprived of the spirit of the love of God and have not a share of the sanctified eternal life -- will be judged with justice, meaning they will arise to receive that which they deserve."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 58)

This resurrection, or raising of the dead is not unique and only for that given time. The raising of the dead happens whenever a new messenger of God appears and mankind is asked to open up their hearts to a new messiah. During the time of Christ that new Messiah was Jesus and if you turned to the words of Jesus your heart would be opened to God's new message for that day and you became a living soul believing in the true word of God. In this day the new manifestation for this day is Bahá'u'lláh (The Glory of God spoken of in

the bible) and we are asked to turn to the ocean of his wisdom for our enlightenment and understanding:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Bugle hath sounded, the Trumpet hath been blown, the Crier hath raised his call, and all upon the earth have swooned away -- but still do the dead, in the tombs of their bodies, sleep on."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 13)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 11:5 "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them." The dead, as I just stated, were raised up symbolically by having the gospel preached to them and then answering the call which made them living souls in the cause of God. All those people that remained wrapped in the dense veils of self remained trapped in the prisons of their flesh unaware of the new light that had dawned on the new spiritual horizon engulfing the world.**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 27:52 "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose," Matthew 27:53 "And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."**

The opening of the graves and the resurrection of the dead spoken of here in Matthew occurred with the crucifixion of Jesus. This is an event that would have turned the Roman Empire on its skeptical ear, had the Roman hierarchy actually witnessed the opening of the graves and raising of the saints; but no physical event like this was ever recorded in the annals of history Roman or otherwise. This argues the point that this event, like Christ's earlier statement about the dead already being raised, should not be taken literally and again argues for a spiritual resurrection and not a physical resurrection with dead bodies climbing out of the ground disturbing the living. And,  **Christianity: John 11: 25 "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he**

live:" Jesus tells us quite plainly here, that he is the resurrection and those people though they are spiritually dead will become spiritually alive, coming out of the grave of self, if they believe in him.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "'That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.' It is evident, therefore, according to Christ that the human spirit which is not fortified by the presence of the Holy Spirit is dead and in need of resurrection by that divine power; otherwise, though materially advanced to high degrees, man cannot attain full and complete progress."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 182)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." This is a straight forward statement from Paul that states that if we live for the pleasures of this worldly life we are considered dead in the eyes of God "she that liveth in pleasure is dead, while she liveth." We can be living and breathing, walking around and talking but if we only live for the pleasures of this life we are quite dead to God, but if we turn to God and open up our hearts to His message we can live in God becoming living souls coming out of the prison of self:**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Romans 8:12 "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh." Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Thank thou God for that by reason of which the breath of God hath awakened thee and the spirit of God hath quickened thee and raised thee from among the dead with a joyful spirit of life."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 120)

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." Galatians 5:25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." It takes active participation on our parts to live in God. We can't just say that we believe without acting like we believe. We become living souls through accepting God's word for the day and acting on it, not just sitting back and doing nothing which is of no benefit to anyone. 1 Peter 4:6 "For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit." The gospel was preached to them that are dead. We can see from this statement from Peter that God, as I stated earlier, considers some people dead even though they appear to be living and breathing. That is the reason the gospel was preached to them that Christ considered dead to the spirit. Indeed, for this reason the Bahá'í Faith, as well as Christianity and the other major religions, was preached to the world that men may become living souls in the cause of God and not just believers in God in name only.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Here was resurrection and life again calling to those dead in the tombs of self and desire to come forth,"**

Hidden Words by Bahá'u'lláh

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is a day of Resurrection in which the spiritually dead are raised to new life, in which the Reality of the Divine Religions is renewed and reestablished, in which appear 'new heavens and a new earth.'"**

(Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 4)

(For more information see the rapture).

Reward and punishment.

319. Reward and punishment. The religions of God are based on the principles of reward and punishment, so this teaching is found throughout the religions of God as a control factor for our actions in this world: Bahá'í Faith: "The Great Being saith: The structure of world stability and order hath been reared upon, and will continue to be sustained by, the twin pillars of reward and punishment...."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 218)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 25:46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." 2 Thessalonians 1:7 "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels," 1:8 "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:" 1:9 "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 3:8 "Now every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour." 3:14 "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward." Judaism: Ezra 13. Esdras "And therefore be thou not curious how the ungodly shall be punished, and when: but enquire how the righteous shall be saved, whose the world is, and for whom the world is created." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) 1 Esdras "And whosoever shall transgress the law of thy God, and of the king, shall be punished diligently." 4 Ezra Esdras "For the just, which have many good works laid up with Thee, shall out of their own deeds receive reward." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) Hosea 4:9 "And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O people of God! That which traineth the world is Justice, for it is upheld by two pillars, reward and punishment. These

two pillars are the sources of life to the world. Inasmuch as for each day there is a new problem and for every problem an expedient solution, such affairs should be referred to the House of Justice that the members thereof may act according to the needs and requirements of the time."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 128)

Show reverence to God on all occasions.

320. Show reverence to God on all occasions: God, Allah, Brahma, Vishnu, Ahura Mazda, The Most Great Life, Manda-d-Haiyi and any of the countless trillions of other names, The Most Ancient, The Uncreated One goes by, He must be shown reverence unconditionally, on all occasions, under all circumstances, or we are not living up to this most wonderful, this most glorious gift of life and existence He has bestowed upon us. Now I know there are some people out there who, on hearing this statement, will think I am as crazy as a loon to make such a brazen statement or believe such a controversial ideal for some people, when a great many in the world wish they had never been born, at least part of the time, myself included during some earlier times in my life, or even The Apostle Paul ✝ Christianity: 2 Corinthians 1:8 "For we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:" But it is just a matter of faith that God will do what He says He is going to do that makes the difference for me, and others like me. ✝ Christianity: 1 Corinthians 8:3 "But if any man love God, the same is known of Him." "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." ✵ Bahá'í Faith: "If only thou couldst know what a high station is destined for those souls who are severed from the world, are powerfully attracted to the Faith, and are teaching, under the sheltering shadow of Bahá'u'lláh! How thou wouldst rejoice, how thou wouldst, in exultation and rapture, spread thy wings and soar heavenward for being a follower of such a way, and a traveler toward such a Kingdom." (Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 100) "May

my life be a sacrifice for His loved ones.....what a glorious sovereignty the Lord hath destined for them in His Kingdom, surely they would be filled with ecstasy, would behold themselves crowned with immortal glory and carried away with transports of delight." (Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 309)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF HIM THAT STOOD BY HIS OWN ENTITY IN THE KINGDOM OF HIS SELF! Know thou, that I have wafted unto thee all the fragrances of holiness, have fully revealed to thee My word, have perfected through thee My bounty and have desired for thee that which I have desired for My Self. Be then content with My pleasure and thankful unto Me."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

With all this waiting for us, how can we not glorify God and show reverence for our creator. And the books of the other religions of God agree with this high regard we must show to our One Creator:

(Reverence: honor, obeisance, fear, adore, worship, venerate)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 12:28 "Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire." 1 Timothy 1:17 "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour (reverence) and glory for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Corinthians 14:25 "So falling down on his face he will worship God," John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship (and revere) him in spirit." Philippians 3:3 "For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." Revelation 7:12 "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, (and reverence) and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The spiritually learned must be characterized by both inward and outward perfections; they must possess a good**

character, an enlightened nature, a pure intent, as well as intellectual power, brilliance and discernment, intuition, discretion and foresight, temperance, reverence, and a heartfelt fear of God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 33)

 **JUDAISM: 1 Kings 2:30 "The LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour (revere) Me I will honour," 1 Chronicles 16:29 "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: (in reverence) worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." 16:30 "Fear before him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved." 16:31 "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth." Psalms 89:7 "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had (held) in reverence." Psalms 99:9 "Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy." 4. Ezra "Behold, saith God, I will call together all the kings of the earth to reverence Me." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Esdras 2) Sirach 50:17 "All the people together hasted, and fell down to the Earth upon their faces to worship (revere) their Lord God Almighty, the most High." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All praise to the unity of God, and all honor to Him, the sovereign Lord, the incomparable and all-glorious Ruler of the universe, Who, out of utter nothingness, hath created the reality of all things, Who, from naught, hath brought into being the most refined and subtle elements of His creation, and Who, rescuing His creatures from the abasement of remoteness and the perils of ultimate extinction, hath received them into His kingdom of incorruptible glory. Nothing short of His all-encompassing grace, His all-pervading mercy, could have possibly achieved it." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 64) This is most assuredly a statement of reverence that Bahá'u'lláh is paying to God, The All Glorious, if there ever was one. "All praise, O my God, be to Thee Who art the Source of all glory and majesty, of greatness and honor, of sovereignty and dominion, of loftiness and grace, of awe and power. Whomsoever Thou willest Thou causest to draw nigh unto the Most Great Ocean, and on whomsoever**

Thou desirest Thou conferrest the honor of recognizing Thy Most Ancient Name. Of all who are in heaven and on earth, none can withstand the operation of Thy sovereign Will. From all eternity Thou didst rule the entire creation, and Thou wilt continue for evermore to exercise Thy dominion over all created things. There is none other God but Thee, the Almighty, the Most Exalted, the All-Powerful, the All-Wise." (Bahá'í Faith, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 94)

 **ISLAM: 205. "And do thou (O reader!) bring thy Lord (Allah, God) to remembrance in thy (very) soul, with humility and in reverence, without loudness in words, in the mornings and evenings; and be not thou of those who are unheedful."**

(Islam, The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 7)

 **ZOROASTRIANISM: 20. "Your blessings shall ye give us, all that are one in will, with whom Right, Good Thought, Piety, and Mazda (God) (are one) according to promise, giving your aid when worshipped with reverence."**

(Zoroastrianism, The Zend-Avesta, Avesta – Yasna chapter 52)

 **HINDUISM: 15. "Reverence be to thee coming, reverence to thee going; reverence, O Rudra (Brahma, God), be to thee standing, and reverence, also, to thee sitting!" 16. "Reverence in the evening, reverence in the morning, reverence by night, reverence by day!"**

(Hindu, Vedas, Atharva Veda)

 **BUDDHISM: "I am known by uncounted trillions of names. They address me by different names not realizing that they are all names of the one Tathagata. Some recognize me as Tathagata, some as The Self-existent One, some as Gautama the Ascetic, some as Buddha. Then there are others who recognize me as Brahma, as Vishnu. Thus in this world and in other worlds am I known by these uncounted**

names, but they all see me as the moon is seen in water. Though they all honor, praise, (revere) and esteem me, they do not fully understand the meaning and significance of the words they use; not having their own self-realization of Truth they cling to the words of their canonical books, or to what has been told them, or to what they have imagined, and fail to see that the name they are using is only one of the many names of the Tathagata." (Buddha, Lankavatara Sutra)

 **SABEANISM: "Arise, worship (revere) and praise the Great Life (God) And praise His Counterpart, that is the image of the Life." "I worship and praise that channel of light, The messenger of all rays-of-light. (The manifestation of God on this earth) (Sabeanism, Ginza Rba-chapters 114 thru 116 The writings of Adam father of mankind)**

(For more on the reverence of God throughout the religions see Oneness of Religions for more information)

Heavens rolled up.

321. Heavens rolled up. The Heavens shall be rolled up: This is a warning that I thought was strictly New Testament fire and brimstone, revelations kind of stories, but what I found out is that all of the religions of God seem to have similar stories of things that will take place in the heavens that describe similar kinds of events, and some of these events seem to have already happened in the past and the world failed to take notice. I would assume this is because the events being talked about were, in reality, spiritual, symbolic events and not real world ending catastrophes that the holy writings seemed to indicate. Judaism: Isaiah 34:4 "And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree." It is not the physical heaven that is being talked about here, but the spiritual, symbolic heaven of religion. Whenever a new manifestation of God comes to this earth the religious teachings, the laws and sacraments are out dated and the

heaven of the old faith is symbolically rolled up and a new heaven of laws like a new earth of beliefs are laid down in its place.

With the rolling up of the old and the laying down of the new there comes great consternation in the world. Judaism: Isaiah 34:4 "And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree." With the rolling up of the previous religion traditions, sacraments, practices, laws etc.... there is a great increase in anxiety and confusion on the part of the adherents to the previous religions. The people want to hold onto what is familiar but the teachings just don't seem to be in sync with the day and times. It seems that the laws and practices just don't seem to fit with the problems that the people are facing. It is at such times that God renews His covenant with mankind so that His teachings remain a benefit to mankind. Christianity: Hebrews 8:13 "A new covenant He hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." Hebrews 8:7 "For if that first covenant had been faultless, than should no place have been sought for the second."

It is with the coming of the new covenant that the heavens of the older religion, that is being replaced, are rolled up and a new heaven is laid down in its place. Christianity: Revelations 6:14 "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together, (the older laws and sacraments)." Judaism: Isaiah 65:17 "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." Christianity: Revelations 21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away." Revelations 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelations 21:5 "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Soon will the present day order be rolled up, and a new one spread out in its stead,"

(Bahá'í Faith, Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, p. 217)

It is with the laying down of the new laws and the new teachings that the consternation from the people arises. People are familiar with the religious teachings they grew up with, and to change their belief causes anxiety in their hearts. Some people overcome their confusion but for others there is only conflict. Some people are so rooted in their belief structure that they would rather fight and persecute the adherents of a new faith rather than let the religion blossom. They did this in the time of Jesus Christ harassing Christ to no end until finally crucifying him on a cross. ✝ Christianity: Luke 23:33 "they crucified him," And, his followers also faced persecution and death at the hands of these people. John 15:21 "But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake." It was like this at the time of Christ, it was like this in the time of the Báb and it was also like this in the time of Bahá'u'lláh, and Abdu'l-Bahá; it is like this now for some of the Baha'is.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The nature of the tests which confront the believer may vary from age to age. In the days of the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, tests were mainly in the form of persecution and martyrdom. The believers were often faced with situations in which they had either to recant their faith in public or give their lives."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 3, p. 48)

The followers of the new faith face persecution because of the rolling up of the old and the laying down of the new. It has been this way throughout the eons past and it hasn't changed today. With the falling away of the old laws and religious practices, traditions and sacraments fall to the wayside like dust falling off an old carpet that is being rolled up. ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 34:4 "And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree."

With this falling away of the old comes the confusion and persecution we saw at the birth of this faith when the Báb and twenty thousand of his believers were put to death.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "There followed large-scale persecutions of the Bábís in which ultimately more than 20,000 people lost their lives."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Misc Baha'i, Brittanica article, p. 2)

We see this same kind of persecution of the faith today in which property is confiscated children are denied education and some people are still imprisoned and put to death. This is what happens with the rolling up of the old heavens and the laying down of the new. This is one of the signs that the revelation brought to the earth by The Báb and Bahá'u'lláh is from God and is not a creation out of the minds of men.  **Islam: 30. "Ah! alas for (My) servants! There comes not an messenger to them but they mock Him (and persecute him and his followers)!" (The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 36) This is one of the proofs a prophet is from God according to Muhammad.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Soon, He declared, 'will the present day order be rolled up and a new one spread out in its stead.' Since the ascension of Bahá'u'lláh in 1892, in the Holy Land, the rolling up of the old order has become the daily experience of mankind and no abatement of this process is discernible."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. ix)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Verily, verily the new heaven and the new earth are come. The holy City, new Jerusalem, hath come down from on high in the form of a maid of heaven, veiled, beauteous, and unique, and prepared for reunion with her lovers on earth. The angelic company of the celestial Concourse have joined in a call that hath rung throughout the universe, all loudly and mightily acclaiming: 'Hail, O City of God! Abide Thou, and make Thy habitation with the pure, virtuous and holy servants of Thine; for they are Thy people, and Thou art their Lord.'"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 350)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The mountains have passed away, and the heavens have been folded together, and the whole earth is held within His grasp, could ye but understand it."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 44)

You reap what you sow.

322. You reap what you sow the religions of God tell us: This seems to be, pretty much, a universal teaching in religion from what I have seen. The words may differ, somewhat, from one religion to another, but the message is all the same. Judaism: Job 4:8 "Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same." Hosea 10:13 "Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies:" Proverbs 22:8 "He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail." Christianity: 2 Corinthians 9:6 "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart," Galatians 6:7 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." 6:8 "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Alas! naught is reaped but what is sown, and naught is taken but what is laid up, save by the grace of God and His favor."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 78)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The fleeting hours of man's life on earth pass swiftly by and the little that still remaineth shall come to an end, but that which endureth and lasteth for evermore is the fruit that man reapeth from his servitude at the Divine Threshold."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 233)

BAHA'I FAITH: "For naught is reaped save that which hath been sown, and naught is taken up save that which hath been laid down, unless it be through the grace and bestowal of the Lord."

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 130)

Sacrificed their all for God.

323. Sacrificed their all for God. It seems to be a common practice, in the beginning of a revelation, for all the messengers of God and their followers to sacrifice their possessions, their will, even their very lives in the path of God. We find this same story over and over again throughout all the major world religions. In the Holy Bible this is hinted at by Peter. Christianity: Mark 10:28 "Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee." Mark 10:29 "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's," Mark 10:30 "But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

Clearly the disciples of Christ gave up their homes their will their everything to follow Christ and later many gave up their lives, the ultimate sacrifice, in the pathway of God. This is selfless, unconditional devotion to God; we also find this kind of sacrifice happening in the writings of the Bahá'í Faith.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "They were content to renounce possessions and ready to joyously forfeit life itself."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 80)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 18:28 "Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee." Luke 18:29 "And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake," Luke 18:30 "Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Therefore we also must strive in this pathway of love and service, sacrificing life and possessions, passing our days in devotion, consecrating our efforts wholly to the cause of God, so that, God willing, the ensign of universal religion may be uplifted in the world of mankind and the oneness of the world of humanity be established."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 230)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Ephesians 5:1 "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;" Ephesians 5:2 "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "His Holiness the Báb became a martyr, and over twenty thousand men and women sacrificed their lives for their faith."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 233)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Philippians 2:17 "Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all."**

Philippians 3:8 “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “For the betterment of the world Bahá'u'lláh endured all the hardships, ordeals and vicissitudes of life, sacrificing His very being and comfort, forfeiting His estates, possessions and honor -- all that pertains to human existence -- not for one year, nay, rather, for nearly fifty years. During this long period He was subjected to persecution and abuse, was cast into prison, was banished from His native land, underwent severities and humiliation and was exiled four times. He was first exiled from Persia to Baghdad, thence to Constantinople, thence to Rumelia and finally to the great prison-fortress of 'Akká in Syria, where He passed the remainder of His life. Every day a new oppression and abuse was heaped upon Him until He winged His flight from the dungeon to the supreme world and returned to His Lord. He endured these ordeals and difficulties in order that this earthly human world might become heavenly, that the illumination of the divine Kingdom should become a reality in human hearts, that the individual members of mankind might progress, the power of the Holy Spirit increase its efficacy and penetration and the happiness of the world of humanity be assured.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 322)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “We call to remembrance, the final scene of that somber tragedy, when, as a result of the Prince's violation of his sacred engagement, a number of the betrayed companions of Quddus were assembled in the camp of the enemy, were stripped of their possessions, and sold as slaves, the rest being either killed by the spears and swords of the officers, or torn asunder, or bound to trees and riddled with bullets, or blown from the mouths of cannon and consigned to the flames, or else being disemboweled and having their heads impaled on spears and lances. Quddus, their beloved leader, was by yet another shameful act of the intimidated Prince surrendered**

into the hands of the diabolical Sa'idu'l-'Ulama who, in his unquenchable hostility and aided by the mob whose passions he had sedulously inflamed, stripped his victim of his garments, loaded him with chains, paraded him through the streets of Barfurush, and incited the scum of its female inhabitants to execrate and spit upon him, assail him with knives and axes, mutilate his body, and throw the tattered fragments into a fire."

(Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, p. 41)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: It sealed the fate of Vahid who, by his green turban, the emblem of his proud lineage, was bound to a horse and dragged ignominiously through the streets, after which his head was cut off, was stuffed with straw, and sent as a trophy to the feasting Prince in Shiraz, while his body was abandoned to the mercy of the infuriated women of Nayriz, who, intoxicated with barbarous joy by the shouts of exultation raised by a triumphant enemy, danced, to the accompaniment of drums and cymbals, around it. And finally, it brought in its wake, with the aid of no less than five thousand men, specially commissioned for this purpose, a general and fierce onslaught on the defenseless Bábís, whose possessions were confiscated, whose houses were destroyed, whose stronghold was burned to the ground, whose women and children were captured, and some of whom, stripped almost naked, were mounted on donkeys, mules and camels, and led through rows of heads hewn from the lifeless bodies of their fathers, brothers, sons and husbands, who previously had been either branded, or had their nails torn out, or had been lashed to death, or had spikes hammered into their hands and feet, or had incisions made in their noses through which strings were passed, and by which they were led through the streets before the gaze of an irate and derisive multitude."**

(Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, p. 43)

Salvation.

324. Salvation is promised, in religion, to all that live a holy life: Salvation, the saving of a person from his or her sins or dangerous behaviors, which in turn leads to the preservation of the human soul and the upliftment of the qualities of the spirit of mankind, in this world and the next, is a promise made to man in the religions of God, to all who live a spiritual and holy life. Bahá'í Faith: "Know that which is the cause of everlasting life, eternal honor, universal enlightenment, real salvation and prosperity is, first of all, the knowledge of God. It is known that the knowledge of God is beyond all knowledge, and it is the greatest glory of the human world. For in the existing knowledge of the reality of things there is material advantage, and through it outward civilization progresses; but the knowledge of God is the cause of spiritual progress and attraction, and through it the perception of truth, the exaltation of humanity, divine civilization, rightness of morals and illumination are obtained."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 300)

JUDAISM: Exodus 14:13 "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD." 1 Chronicles 16:23 "Sing unto the LORD, all the earth; shew forth from day to day His salvation." 16:24 "Declare His glory among the heathen; His marvelous works among all nations." 16:25 "For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: He also is to be feared above all gods." Psalms 27:1 "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Isaiah 12:2 "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation." Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass."

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 13:11 "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Thomas 2:51 "His (Jesus') disciples said to Him, 'When will the repose of the dead come about, and when will the new world come?' He said to them, 'What you look forward to has already come, but you do not recognize it." (The Gospel of Thomas) Philippians 1:19 "For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 1:20 "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death." Philippians 2:12 "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." 2:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Titus 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men," Titus 2:12 "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" Luke 12:32 "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He hath wiped away their tears, kindled their light, rejoiced their hearts and enraptured their souls. Death shall no more overtake them, neither shall sorrow, crying and tribulation afflict them. The Lord God Omnipotent hath been enthroned in His Kingdom and hath made all things new. This is the truth, and what truth greater than the Revelation of St. John the divine? He is the Alpha and Omega. He is the One that will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life, and bestow upon the sick the remedy of true salvation. He whom such grace aideth is verily he that receiveth the most glorious heritage from the prophets of God and His holy ones. The Lord will be his God, and he His dearly-beloved son."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 350)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "That which is conducive to the regeneration of the world and the salvation of the peoples and kindreds of the earth hath been sent down from the heaven of the utterance of Him Who is the Desire of the world. Give ye a hearing ear to the counsels of the Pen of Glory. Better is this for you than all that is on the earth. Unto this beareth witness My glorious and wondrous Book."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 222)

Science and religion go hand and hand.

325. Science and religion go hand and hand. God revealed himself to mankind through His word which, inadvertently, brought about the creation of religion and the knowledge of a meta-physical kind of existence of the spiritual realm. Christianity: John 4:23 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." So you see, "God is a spirit," so the writings of God needs to be studied in a more spiritual context according to Jesus Christ, and with our hearts truly open and spiritually seeking out the truth; because, "the Father seeketh such to worship him." And, as John tells us: John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." So, there is a distinct difference between the ignorant flesh found in nature and the spiritual man seeking out the spiritual content found in the word of God.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God also created science because He created physical existence and since much of science is the study of physical existence, then by this reasoning we can only deduce that since both science and religion come from the same source, God, this can only mean that if both religion and physical existence came about through the one same God both science and religion must agree for this existence to make any sense. Religion and Science are intertwined with each other and cannot be separated. These are the two wings**

with which humanity must fly. One wing is not enough. Every religion which does not concern itself with Science is mere tradition, and that is not the essential. Therefore science, education and civilization are most important necessities for the full religious life."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 28 thru 29)

If we can accept that not everything in the scriptures should be taken literally, and if we can accept that "God is a spirit;" Then His word should be spiritual in nature also and it needs to be studied longer and harder looking for that deeper spiritual meaning that will allow us to see the essence of His teachings for ourselves; without the bias that comes from multiple generations of handed down theology which can blind us to the truth of His words: ✝ Christianity: John 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." John 5:47 "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" Christ warns us, in John, that there is more to his words then is readily understood at face value. John 4:23 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth." We need to look more intently if we wish to find the truth of His words and we need to search more thoroughly if we wish to discover the physical sciences that are buried within the words. Let us look for some of the scientific facts that can be gleaned from the study of the Holy writings: ✡ Judaism: Genesis 2:6 "But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground." This is science in action. This is how rain is really formed in the world not just idle words, clouds rise up. Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Man is created from water, 2 hydrogen and 1 oxygen and carbon, sodium, potassium, chloride etc... all elements that are found in nature; elements that come from the earth. Judges 13:3 "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son." Judges 13:4 "Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:" We now know that drinking wine or strong drink can harm the natural development of the

fetus, so the women of today are encouraged to not drink alcohol of any kind throughout their pregnancy for the safety of the baby.

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 6:20 "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science....." Even in the very early stages of Christianity there seems to have been a rift between religion and science in the eyes of some of the followers of the faith. Paul warns Timothy to avoid vain babblings and oppositions of science which one can assume are the vain babblings he is talking about. Science, real science, is the study of the physical world and the use of a reasoning mind to establish the truth of a matter.**  **Judaism: Ecclesiastics 1:13 "And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." We are encouraged, by Solomon, to use wisdom and reason to search out the truth of everything that is done under heaven or everything that is done under the sun. We are to exercise our intellect in this. Indeed, elsewhere in the bible, we are encouraged to use reason to discover the truth of matters. Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason....." We are told, by Isaiah, to use reason to understand what is happening around us. We are warned, in fact, to be vigilant of the world around us,**  **Christianity: 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant....." least events occur in the world that takes us unaware; and we are told to watch. Mark 13:37 "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." Yet there are some who just won't see, who believe more in superstition then in the spiritual nature of the creative word of God:**  **Judaism: Deuteronomy 29:4 "Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day." Isaiah 6:10 "Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "For every era hath a spirit; the spirit of this illumined era lieth in the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. For these lay the foundation of the oneness of the world of humanity and promulgate**

universal brotherhood. They are founded upon the unity of science and religion and upon investigation of truth."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 109)

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 5:21 "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:" Ezekiel 12:2 "Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house."**  **Christianity: Matthew 13:13 "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." Matthew 13:14 "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:" Matthew 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." Matthew 13:16 "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear." Matthew 13:17 "For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them." Acts 28:26 "Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:" Acts 28:27 "For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." Romans 11:8 "(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear) unto this day." Romans 11:9 "And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompense unto them:" Romans 11:10 "Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway."**

You may be asking yourself how having ears that don't hear has anything to do with science and scientific investigation, but a large part of the trouble most people have with science and religion being in agreement deals with statements found in the bible that go completely against know scientific facts. Many scientists have a problem with religion and many people of faith have a deep problem with science because of this. So, I want to again remind you: ✝ Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit." The bible is revealed by spiritual individuals who are trying to reach us and teach us spiritual truths through physical words. 2 Peter 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." "Let those with ears hear," is a warning found all throughout the bible trying to get people to look beyond the physical words into the deeper spiritual meaning beyond the mere words. I have listed fourteen occasions throughout the bible where the authors of the book have tried to get man to look beyond the words and this is just a few to the number of times man has been reminded to look beyond the words in the bible. If men were to try and look beyond the words they would find that science is not at variance with the spiritual word of the bible and science and religion can in fact agree.

If we believe that science and religion both come from the one God, then we have to accept that both philosophies come from the same source then one has to agree with the other or you have confusion and mere superstition.

In the beginning of Genesis we have the story of creation, but if we remove the idea of God's days, which we really don't know their true duration, from the simple belief of one day being one simple human day, example: ✡ Judaism: Numbers 14:34 "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise," Ezekiel 4:6 "I have appointed thee each day for a year." or as we find in 2 Peter: 2 Peter 3:8 "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day etc..." With this in mind we can look at the biblical story of creation in a whole new light.

Example, it took God six days to create the earth and Peter tells us that one day with God is a thousand years and one thousand years is one day with God. I wonder has anyone thought about the fact that established human history is six thousand years or six days by God's reckoning. Christianity: Anyway, getting ourselves back on track, let's consider the biblical account on creation. When we do this we find that the biblical story of creation is scientifically sound and pretty much the way scientists now believe the earth and life on earth was formed.

JUDAISM: Genesis 1:2 "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Genesis 1:6 "And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." A supercontinent example: Pangaea (the last of five supercontinents) was a single land mass that existed on the earth hundreds of millions of years ago that eventually broke up into several large land masses called continents that did in fact divide the water from the water. Genesis 1:7 "And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so." There are in fact underground rivers and water sources which are separated from above ground lakes and rivers by the earth so this is true. Or, we may consider the clouds of water up in the sky that rain down upon the earth as a meaning. This is the word of God; it is open to multiple truths and meanings. Genesis 1:9 "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so." This, again, describes the supercontinents: Vaalbara, Kenorland, Columbia, Rodinia and Pangaea, which were single dry land masses that existed on the earth hundreds of millions and billions of years ago. Genesis 1:10 "And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 1:11 "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so." Genesis 1:12 "And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in

itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good." Vegetation did in fact form upon the dry land first long before animals walked the earth. Genesis 1:20 "And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven." Life did in fact come out of the sea or the oceans of the world and spread onto the land. This is a well known fact today, but 6000 years ago this sequence of events couldn't even have been imagined. Genesis 1:21 "And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good." As I said scientists now know that life on earth originally came out of the water, so again this statement is the way evolution of the earth and evolution of animal life did in fact happen. Genesis 1:22 "And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth." Genesis 1:24 "And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so." Genesis 1:25 "And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good." Genesis 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground," As I stated earlier man is in fact formed from the elements of the earth carbon, potassium, sodium, chloride etc… these are all elements of the earth which man is made up of. As for the story of creation it's not exact word for word verbatim but one has to take into account the story was passed down from mouth to mouth then finally written down but the main ideas are correct.

Now at this point some people get stuck. I mentioned the word evolution and when the word evolution is used many people get extremely upset and state "My bible does not tell me my ancestors were apes?" And, to this I say correct, my faith, The Bahá'í Faith, doesn't tell me that we, mankind, came from apes either, but we still accept that the main ideas of evolution are scientifically correct, so how can both of these statements be correct? And I ask you, have you ever considered that man has always been man, no matter what he has looked like externally? I mean if we came from apes, why are there still apes around, for us to see, and, at this point, many

scientists will say we branched off from (hominidae), the family of apes, into a higher more suitable niche for ourselves in nature, but wait a minute, is that true? Apes are physically stronger than us and better adapted to survive in nature, whereas we are weak, susceptible to cold and not really physically equipped to deal with predators or survival in nature, and the first thing that comes to the mind of most scientists is that man has a more evolved brain to make up for the difference and we can use nature to our advantage and make tools etc.... Well, I am a scientist and I ask you, couldn't the spirit found within man have made that special difference in man all along in whatever shape we might have been encased in? Now I could go on for pages explaining how evolution and the development of mankind travel along together hand and hand all along, but to do so would digress from the main theme of this religious dissertation. I just ask you to keep an open mind to the possibility that man has not always looked like man, but as a species we have always been man: Bahá'í Faith: "We cannot prove man was always man for this is a fundamental doctrine, but it is based on the assertion that nothing can exceed its own potentialities, that everything, a stone, a tree, an animal and a human being existed in plan, potentially, from the very 'beginning' of creation. We don't believe man has always had the form of man, but rather that from the outset he was going to evolve into the human form and species and not be a haphazard branch of the ape family."

(Shoghi Effendi, Arohanui - Letters to New Zealand, p. 85)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To recapitulate: as man in the womb of the mother passes from form to form, from shape to shape, changes and develops, and is still the human species from the beginning of the embryonic period -- in the same way man, from the beginning of his existence in the matrix of the world, is also a distinct species, that is, man, and has gradually evolved from one form to another. Therefore this change of appearance, this evolution of members, this development and growth, even though we admit the reality of growth and progress, does not prevent the species from being original. Man from the beginning was in this perfect form and composition, and possessed capacity and aptitude for acquiring material and spiritual perfections, and was the**

manifestation of these words, 'We will make man in Our image and likeness.' He has only become more pleasing, more beautiful, and more graceful. Civilization has brought him out of his wild state, just as the wild fruits which are cultivated by a gardener became finer, sweeter, and acquire more freshness and delicacy."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 309)

I leave it up to the reader to consider the possibility that mankind has evolved throughout the eons from one form to another and that evolution is science in action the way God originally planned it to be and we are just starting to discover some of the ways God does things in this universe; but as I said I leave that determination up to the reader, as it should be, and continue on with this dissertation of science found within religion. ✡ Judaism: Leviticus 19:5 "And if ye offer a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD, ye shall offer it at your own will." Leviticus 19:6 "It shall be eaten the same day ye offer it, and on the morrow: and if ought remain until the third day, it shall be burnt in the fire." Here God was teaching man the importance of food sanitation and good health though man didn't know it. God was protecting man form spoiled food by limiting the amount of time the food has to go bad, since man had no way of keeping the meat cold to help preserve the meat. Leviticus 25:3 "Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof;" Leviticus 25:4 "But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land, a sabbath for the LORD: thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard." Here God was teaching the basics of land restoration. Leviticus 25:5 "That which groweth of its own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, neither gather the grapes of thy vine undressed: for it is a year of rest unto the land." In this year the nutrients were allowed to go back into the ground to help revitalize the soil for future plantings. Leviticus 22:5 "Or whosoever toucheth any creeping thing, whereby he may be made unclean, or a man of whom he may take uncleanness, whatsoever uncleanness he hath;" Leviticus 22:6 "The soul which hath touched any such shall be unclean until even, and shall not eat of the holy things, unless he wash his flesh with water." God was teaching man to be sanitary and wash before he eats. Also we find the instructions given to us, in the bible,

for the practice of medicine. In Leviticus 13:1 thru 13:59 Moses gives the people instructions of how they should treat leprosy, while in Leviticus chapter 15 Moses tells the people to wash after touching an open sore to help stop the spreading of germs of infection. And in Leviticus chapter 11:7 thru 11:8 Moses warns the people not to eat or even touch pork, which today we know can have worms that can be harmful to man so the meat is unclean to eat, but during the time of Peter, when man had better means of cooking the meat, God, in a vision to Peter, abnegated the practice of this law in Acts 10:11 thru 10:15 allowing Peter to eat of the swine because properly cooked pork was safe.

This is just a little bit of actual science and health that is found in the bible for those people who didn't realize that science really is part of the bible and part of religion. For more science in biblical action a person just needs to read the bible while consciously looking for practical science in action. In the meantime this is just a little proof for the reader that science and religion do go hand and hand and when they don't seem to, either the science is not really valid or the biblical passage is really symbolic and not to be taken literally. ✝ Christianity: 1 Corinthians 10:1 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 10:2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 10:3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." Even statements that can only seem to be taken completely literally, Paul demonstrates to us, can have a spiritual meaning as well, if we look for it, which is why the religious theology could be saying one thing going only along with the literal meaning of the word and be completely wrong and off base as to the actual spiritual meaning of the word. And remember: ✝ Christianity: John 4:23 "The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." God is a spirit and He wants us to worship Him in the spirit, or by the spirit, looking for the hidden spiritual meaning within His spiritual words, and I do mean spiritual words, because as I stated earlier the letter by

itself can kill the spirit of the indolent reader who takes everything at face value: 2 Corinthians 3:4 "And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:" 3:5 "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;" 3:6 "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." Or, in-other-words, the word of God can be confusing to the lone reader and needs to be studied thoroughly and systematically that the truth can be known from falsehood and the reader becomes enlightened to God's true wishes for us.

Again: Christianity: Ecclesiastes 7:25 "I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things," Solomon is clear on this, we are to seek out the reason of things using our heart and our mind to search out the truth of a matter. Whether it be the meaning of the words of God or the workings of the world, we must endeavor to try and know the truth of matters. If men were to apply this principle to real life man would not be led astray by people who really don't know the truth of a matter because they, themselves, haven't searched out all the facts involved. People would not be of those people Christ was talking about when he said the blind are leading the blind and both shall fall in the ditch: Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." People would know the truth for themselves because they had searched out the matter using an open mind unbiased from the notions of what other people are telling them they must believe or generations of traditions passed down from parent to child telling them they must live by what is believed of old that may or may not stand the test of time.

BAHA'I FAITH: "The third principle or teaching of Bahá'u'lláh is the oneness of religion and science. Any religious belief which is not conformable with scientific proof and investigation is superstition, for true science is reason and reality, and religion is essentially reality and pure reason; therefore, the two must correspond. Religious teaching which is at variance with science and reason is human invention and imagination unworthy of acceptance, for the antithesis

and opposite of knowledge is superstition born of the ignorance of man. If we say religion is opposed to science, we lack knowledge of either true science or true religion, for both are founded upon the premises and conclusions of reason, and both must bear its test."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 106)

We have looked at the principle of the agreement of science and religion from the stand point of the Christian Bible and the Bahá'í Faith, demonstrating how scientific facts are found in the bible; but what about scientific facts found in the Bahá'í Faith? If, as I believe, The Bahá'í Faith and Christianity both come from the same God, The same Creator of everything, then if I were to search into the writings of the Bahá'í Faith I should find teachings that relate to scientific facts dealing with the world today, and as I searched through the Bahá'í Writings I found that this is the case:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Strange and astonishing things exist in the earth but they are hidden from the minds and the understanding of men. These things are capable of changing the whole atmosphere of the earth and their contamination would prove lethal."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 69)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "There is in existence a stupendous force, as yet, happily undiscovered by man. Let us supplicate God, the Beloved, that this force be not discovered by science until spiritual civilization shall dominate the human mind. In the hands of men of lower nature, this power would be able to destroy the whole earth."**

(Compilations, Japan Will Turn Ablaze, p. 51)

Bahá'u'lláh predicts the development of nuclear weapons and the effect they would have on the planet, the effects they would have on life on the planet and their known effects on the atmosphere of the planet, nearly 80 years before their development. I would say this

constitutes a proof that true scientific facts are found in the Bahá'í Writings.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "That which hath been in existence had existed before, but not in the form thou seest today. The world of existence came into being through the heat generated from the interaction between the active force and that which is its recipient. These two are the same, yet they are different. Thus doth the Great Announcement inform thee about this glorious structure. Such as communicate the generating influence and such as receive its impact are indeed created through the irresistible Word of God which is the Cause of the entire creation, while all else besides His Word are but the creatures and the effects thereof. Verily thy Lord is the Expounder, the All-Wise."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 140)

I might be just a lay person when it comes to the physics of the creation of the universe, but from what I have been able to glean from the theory of the big bang that is believed to be the beginning of the universe the heat generated through the active force and the recipient sounds a lot like the forces that were interacting with one another just prior to the big bang when the believed two forces interacting on one another generated so much heat that the primordial atom blew up creating the universe in the aftermath of the giant explosion. This theory of the two forces interacting with one another creating the big bang has only recently been proposed to the world at large and yet Bahá'u'lláh writes about it over a century ago. I think the prophecy about the creation of nuclear bombs and the description of the creation of the universe constitute the presents of science in the Bahá'í Writings. But one thing I want to draw your attention to, these statements found in the bible and the Bahá'í Writings talk about science before the discoveries were made thereby demonstrating the foreknowledge of God's manifestations when it comes to science of the world. It just took the scientists of the world time to catch up to what God's manifestations had already foretold.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Thou hast, moreover, asked Me concerning the nature of the celestial spheres. To comprehend their nature, it would be necessary to inquire into the meaning of the allusions that have been made in the Books of old to the celestial spheres and the heavens, and to discover the character of their relationship to this physical world, and the influence which they exert upon it. Every heart is filled with wonder at so bewildering a theme, and every mind is perplexed by its mystery. God, alone, can fathom its import. The learned men, that have fixed at several thousand years the life of this earth, have failed, throughout the long period of their observation, to consider either the number or the age of the other planets. Consider, moreover, the manifold divergences that have resulted from the theories propounded by these men. Know thou that every fixed star hath its own planets, and every planet its own creatures, whose number no man can compute.” Here Bahá’u’lláh tells us that each star has its own fixed planets and that there is life on other worlds beyond our comprehension.**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 162)

In modern science we are just beginning to discover planets around other stars, just within the last few years and we are still arguing amongst ourselves about life on other worlds, though we have found hints of life. Recently we discovered a bacteria, right here on this earth, that has followed a completely different pathway of development and evolution, beyond anything we have considered possible, for life on this planet. This bacterium uses entirely different substances for nutrients, then life that we know has up to this point used to support itself; with entirely new and different energy transport systems, or, in laymen’s terms, energy development and energy usage systems, then we thought was possible. This argues the point, that if it can happen right here, why not on other worlds, in forms that up to this point we might not have thought possible, that we might not even recognize as other forms of life, and Bahá’u’lláh was talking about this over one hundred years ago. If this is not a form of religion teaching about science before the scientific discoveries are made I don’t know what else is? This life form is found in an environment that is

completely hostile and alien to what we consider life to be here on this earth.

Seal or mark or sign.

326. Seal or mark or sign. There are people who live in fear that someday they will be ask to take a physical sign or mark that will keep them out of heaven once they have it placed on their body. If we search throughout the bible we find that God has used seals and such throughout the ages to distinguish his followers from the nonbelievers and there was never actually a physical sign or mark actually placed on their physical bodies. The seal or mark does not denote a physical stamp placed on our bodies, instead the bible deals with a symbolic spiritual stamp placed on our souls that deals with how we behave and interact with others. ✡ Judaism: Song of Solomon 8:6 "Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame." Here a seal is being placed upon Solomon's heart which can denote love in his heart for God, Song of Solomon 8:6 "for love is strong as death;" and a seal is being placed on his arm which is symbolic for the actions Solomon takes throughout his life. No real seal was placed on Solomon's arm or heart, what these spiritual seals actually did is become apparent in Solomon's behavior towards worshiping God and how he treated others. ✝ Christianity: John 3:33 "He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true." John has received his symbolic seal which is a testimony from him onto God that John believes in his heart that God is real. Romans 4:11 "And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:" Paul is stating that the gentiles receive a spiritual sign that they are circumcised by accepting Jesus Christ even though in reality they are uncircumcised physically, but the sign of their circumcision is the seal of their faith in righteousness. 2 Timothy 2:19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal,

The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." In Timothy a spiritual seal is used to denote who Christ's true followers really are, which again would become apparent to the rest of the world through their actions as they depart from iniquity.

CHRISTIANITY: Revelations 7:2 "And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God:" Here an angel coming from the east which can spiritually symbolizes the manifestation of God who will come out of the east, (see Locations dealing with the prophet when he came and where he was to be at, for more information on this). And, a seal of the living God which can mean he is bringing the message of the living God to mankind. Revelations 9:4 "And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads." Here not having a seal in our foreheads, not on our foreheads, would be indicative of how we think, which separates the God fearing which have the seal in their thoughts from the ungodly which are more prone to worldly thoughts. Hebrews 10:16 "I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;" This just goes along with the seals in their foreheads and hearts. It's just another way of saying God will place His seals on the people that believe.

These are only a few examples of the use of the words seals, signs and marks in the holy writings of the bible. The writings of the bible are filled with people, sometimes whole groups of people, having some sign, seal or mark put on them to show they are either in the good graces of God or out of favor with God.

As we read through some of these passages from the past one of the first things that becomes very noticeable is that no real physical seal or mark was placed on any of the physical bodies. Judaism: Deuteronomy 6:8 "bind them for a sign upon thine hand." action we perform, Christianity: Ephesians 1:13 "ye were sealed with that holy Spirit" The love of God has descended upon us and we have made it part of our lives. Judaism: Songs of Solomon 8:6 "Set me as a seal upon thine heart." We have the seal of love for God in our hearts.

It is not a physical sign or mark on the physical body that this is talking about. It is, like it has always been, about how we act and how we think and how we behave. ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 11:18 "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes," how we act. Songs of Solomon 8:6 "a seal upon thine heart," how we feel and Exodus 13:9 "a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes" how we act and think. God never had these people place physical marks on their bodies it was always about who they were and how they acted that mattered to God and not some physical blemish on their bodies. So why will it be different in the future? If we follow the history and the writings of the bible, it won't. Exodus 13:9 "And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt." Deuteronomy 6:8 "And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes." Deuteronomy 11:18 "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes." Deuteronomy 28:46 "And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever."

✝ CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 1:13 "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 8:16 "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples." ✝ Christianity: John 6:27 "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed." 2 Corinthians 1:21 "Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;" 2 Corinthians 1:22 "Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." Ephesians 1:13 "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise," Ephesians

4:30 “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “These are they who are blessed by the Concourse on high, who are glorified by the denizens of the everlasting Cities, and beyond them by those on whose foreheads Thy most exalted pen hath written: ‘These! The people of Baha. Through them have been shed the splendors of the light of guidance.’”**

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 83)

These are just a few of the numerous examples found in the bible where a seal or sign was used to signify that favor from God was granted to those receiving this distinction of being sealed or having a seal. Christianity: John 6:27 “the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.” John tells us that Jesus Christ was sealed by God the Father, but it should be noted that nowhere in the bible does it indicate that Jesus had a physical mark placed on his body. 2 Corinthians 1:22 “Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” Here we find that we, the believers in Christ, have been sealed as well but again no physical seal was placed on the bodies of those followers of Christ. And in Ezekiel we find, if we look, that whole nations of people are separated from one another by those receiving a mark from those people who don’t receive the mark:

 **JUDAISM: Ezekiel 8:1 “And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me.” Ezekiel 8:2 “Then I beheld, and lo a likeness as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of his loins even downward, fire; and from his loins even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the color of amber.” Ezekiel 8:3 “And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh**

to jealousy." Ezekiel 8:4 "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain." Ezekiel 8:5 "Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry." Ezekiel 8:6 "He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations." Ezekiel 8:12 "Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth." Ezekiel 8:16 "And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east." Ezekiel 8:17 "Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose." Ezekiel 8:18 "Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them." Ezekiel 9:1 "He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand." Ezekiel 9:2 "And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar." Ezekiel 9:3 "And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side;" Ezekiel 9:4 "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." Ezekiel 9:5 "And to the others he said in mine hearing,

Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:" Ezekiel 9:6 "Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house." Ezekiel 9:7 "And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city." Ezekiel 9:8 "And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?" Ezekiel 9:9 "Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not."

This prophecy given to Ezekiel in the sixth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity by the Chaldeans is a warning to Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem of the impending disaster that was soon to be unleashed on Judah and Jerusalem by the occupying Chaldean forces, which occurred in 586 B.C. In 586 B.C. Judah rebelled against Chaldean rule and King Nebuchadnezzar ruler of Chaldeans sent his armies to Jerusalem and had the city sacked and destroyed thereby, in the process, destroying both the city and the temple. ✡ Judaism: Ezekiel 9:1 "Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man with his destroying weapon in his hand." All of this is part of history for anyone who cares to examine the history of Israel for him or herself. What is not found in the history books is the mention of a mark being placed on some of the inhabitants of the city of Jerusalem prior to the sacking: Ezekiel 9:4 "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof." And we know this marking process of the people of the city took place because the bible tells us it took place: Ezekiel 9:11 "And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me." What we don't find in the history books, I must stress the point, is any mention of real physical marks being placed on the foreheads of some of the

inhabitants of the city of Jerusalem. This, again, is an example of a spiritual mark being placed on the true believers in God and not an actual mark being placed on the foreheads of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. If this is the case, I must again ask the question, if no real physical mark, seal or sign was used throughout the whole bible to mark the people why would it be any different in the book of Revelations, which is essentially a spiritual, symbolic book; and the answer to this question is it wouldn't be any different in the book of Revelations then it is in the rest of the bible. No real physical mark, seal or sign will be used to physically distinguish one believer in God from another or distinguish the believers from the unbelievers. It won't be as simple as that: Revelations 9:4 "And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads." Here not having a seal in their foreheads is considered a very bad thing which people are to be punished for, while having this mark is a good thing. Revelations 13:16 "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:" Revelations 14:9 "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,"

Revelations 14:10 "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:" Revelations 14:11 "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." Here having a mark is a very bad thing which in this case leads to the torment and punishment of those people bearing the mark. So in contrast, having a mark is a bad thing. But the bible just said in Revelations 9:4 that not having a mark was the cause of the punishment for the people, Revelations 9:4 "And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads." This seems to be in direct contradiction to the other statement in Revelations 14:9 thru 14:11

having a mark leads to eternal punishment. Having a mark or seal in your forehead is either good or bad it can't be both. If you don't have a mark you are to be punished. If you do have a mark you are also to be punished. This is a situation where everyone will be marked in some way, the God fearing and the people who could care less about God.

Maybe instead of beating our heads against a wall trying to figure out which statement is true and correct and which statement is false we need to go back to these two statements and see what these two statements have in common one with another. Revelations 9:4 ".....the seal of God in their foreheads." Revelations 13:16 "receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads" Both of these statements are clear on one thing the mark or seal will not be on the body or on the forehead and hand, but in the forehead and in the hand. This will not be a physical mark on our physical body we can see and touch, these marks will be inside of us in our hearts and in our souls. (For further information on these topics one can read the books New Keys to the Book of Revelations, The Apocalypse Unsealed and Understanding the Revelation of Saint John). These three books will answer many of the questions about the book of Revelations a person may have. But for the person that really desires an explanation about the mark of the beast, not being able to buy or sell and his number being 666 I will very briefly touch upon these topics.

The mark of the beast and his number 666 are part of a number of meanings that apply here and it needs to be understood that these explanations only cover some of the meanings of these verses found in the book of Revelations. To get more meaning out of these topics it would take much studying and research on the part of the seeker, while earnestly praying to God asking for help and guidance, which I would only encourage to those people who seek a deeper meaning. But for those people who are just looking for a simple answer to all of this let us start by saying the mark of the beast, his number, being able to buy and sell etc.... all relates back to Islam. So, having a good understanding of the Qur'án and a good historical background into the life and times of Muhammad as well as having a keen understanding of the events that took place just before and after Muhammad's death would be greatly helpful to the search for anyone who is looking to understand many of the passages found in Revelations including the understanding of the beast, his mark etc....

To began with it needs to be understood that Muhammad near the end of his life chose a successor for the believers to turn to after his death. This, according to Shi'ah Islam, happened by The Pool of Khum during Muhammad's last pilgrimage to Mecca in 632 A.D. Muhammad had the caravan stop on their way back to Medina by The Pool of Khum and had his believers erect a pulpit made of saddles where he announced to the believers that they were to turn to Ali upon his death and had the believers there swear allegiance to Ali. This event is of course denied by the Sunni sect of Islam which has no record of this event ever happening in any of their books. It is this dispute over the successorship of who the believers were to turn to after Muhammad's death that led to the appearance and coming to power of the beast. ✝ Christianity: Revelations 13:18 "Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." Here is wisdom. The beast is a man that can be known by his number 666. After the death of Muhammad there was conflict over the succession of who was to lead Islam now that the prophet was dead. Muhammad had chosen Ali for the task, but no written statement was made by the prophet and when he ask for writing materials to be brought to him on his death bed none was brought to him, so later the right of succession was challenged. The history of these events can be studied in the book Muhammad and the Course of Islam by H.M. Balyuzi for a more in depth study into the history of these events.

In the struggle for power there arose a man by the name of Mu'awiyah he was the leader of the Umayyah or the Umayyads which became the usurpers of the reins of power over Islam. It is Mu'awiyah that many people believe to be the beast spoken of in Revelations. He used trickery and murder to steal the reigns of Islam over from the one who Muhammad had chosen to be his successor. Here we see the wounding in the head onto death and the miraculous healing of the beast spoken of in the bible all happening as prophesied in the bible coming true for all to see. This happened around 666 years after the birth of Christ, the year 666 A.D., though there was some confusion about the real year that Christ was born. The title Mu'awiyah assumed was The Caliph which has the geometrical value of 666 for those who believe a number needs to be associated with a name. Not being able to buy and sell is thought to be related to two taxes that were levied

against non-Muslim people who resided in Muslim held territories. Jizya the head tax and kharaj land and business tax. Non-Muslims had to pay these two taxes if they wished to buy and sell, take the mark of the beast or become Muslim, take the name of the beast.

These are just a few examples of the meanings that can be placed on these passages found in the 13th chapter of the book of Revelations. For a more thorough understanding of the book of Revelations I suggest the reader read New Keys to the Book of Revelations by Ruth Moffett, The Apocalypse Unsealed by Robert F. Riggs and Understanding the Revelation to Saint John by Dr. Alan D. Clark these books go into more detail and explanation of the book of Revelations and will answer many questions the reader might have, and I also recommend: Muhammad and the Course of Islam, by H. M. Balyuzi, through (Oxford: George Ronald, 1976)

(Islamic Miscellaneous, Cameron - Disconnected Letters of the Qur'an, p. 52)

Christianity in its early beginnings was called a sect of Judaism. In the early days of The Bahá'í Faith it was also called a sect. It was called a sect of Islam.

327. Christianity in its early beginnings was called a sect of Judaism. In the early days of The Bahá'í Faith it was also called a sect. It was called a sect of Islam. Christianity: Acts 24:5 "For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:" Acts 28:22 But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.

BAHA'I FAITH: "A court case was brought against the Bahá'ís by the public prosecutor, who claimed that the Faith was a 'Tarighat', one

of those sects of Islam whose rituals, practices and forms of worship are forbidden by the law of the country."

(Custodians, Ministry of the Custodians, p. 306)

Servant to mankind.

328. <u>Servant to mankind</u>. The Bahá'í Writings are filled with hallowed words that define and distinguish the noble character of man. (see Good Character). There are numerous passages in the writings that portray some of the highest endeavors a man can achieve as being a servant to mankind. This is also true of the bible if one looks for it. <u>Judaism:</u> <u>Deuteronomy</u> 10:18 "He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment." <u>Deuteronomy</u> 14:29 "And the Levite..... and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest." <u>Job</u> 29:12 "I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him." <u>Proverbs</u> 3:13 "The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy." <u>Proverbs</u> 3:14 "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem." <u>Proverbs</u> 3:15 "I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame." <u>Proverbs</u> 3:16 "I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out."

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Be a well-wisher of humanity and a servant of mankind. Thus the strength of the Kingdom will uphold thee and the avenues of revelation open to thee. Because today every servant is served and is an honorable lord and every maid-servant the queen of horizons. Grow in humility and meekness daily, until thou attainest eternal glory and everlasting grace."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v3, p. 523)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 125:4 "Do good, O LORD, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts." Proverbs 3:27 "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it." Proverbs 3:28 "Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee." Proverbs 3:29 "Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee." Proverbs 3:30 "Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm." Proverbs 3:31 "Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be self-sacrificing with life and heart, raise the anthem of sanctity to the Supreme Kingdom, live in perfect love with one another; nay, rather, be the cause of rest to the whole world, adorn the realm of creation, destroy the edifice of jealousy and envy and establish the law of love and unity, be truthful servants of mankind and conscientious well-wishers of the human race!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 355)

 **JUDAISM: Ezekiel 18:7 "And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath spoiled none by violence, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment;"**  **Christianity: Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" Luke 3:11 "He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise." Luke 6:27 "But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you," Luke 6:35 "Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To the orphans be ye kind fathers, and to the unfortunate a refuge and shelter. To the poor be a treasure of wealth, and to the sick a remedy and healing. Be a helper of every oppressed**

one, the protector of every destitute one, be ye ever mindful to serve any soul of mankind."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 216)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" Romans 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" Romans 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" Romans 12:13 "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality." Romans 12:14 "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not." Romans 12:15 "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "I supplicate God that thou mayest become a kind parent to orphaned children, quickening them with the fragrances of the Holy Spirit, so that they will attain the age of maturity as true servants of the world of humanity and as bright candles in the assemblage of mankind."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 138)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 12:17 "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." Romans 12:18 "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Romans 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Romans 12:20 "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink." Romans 12:21 "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 15:2 "Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Forsake the mortal grades (i. e., things of the world) and be engaged in praising thy Lord; so that His Holy Spirit may assist thee; may make thee a sign of faith and illumine thy heart with**

the light of assurance, and that thou mayest become a sign of peace, a servant of reconciliation, love and security."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 228)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 9:19 "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all."
Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
Galatians 6:10 "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Be kind to all around and serve one another; love to be just and true in all your dealings; pray always and so live your life that sorrow cannot touch you."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 82)

CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." 1 Timothy 4:12 ".....be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O people of God! Do not busy yourselves in your own concerns; let your thoughts be upon that which will rehabilitate the fortunes of mankind and sanctify the hearts and souls of men. This can best be achieved through pure and holy deeds, through a virtuous life and a goodly behavior."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 93)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 4:8 "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." John 13:5 "After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to

wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded." John 13:12 "So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?" 13:13 "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am." John 13:14 "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet." John 13:15 "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To be a real Christian is to be a servant in His Cause and Kingdom, to go forth under His banner of peace and love toward all mankind, to be self-sacrificing and obedient, to become quickened by the breaths of the Holy Spirit, to be mirrors reflecting the radiance of the divinity of Christ, to be fruitful trees in the garden of His planting, to refresh the world by the water of life of His teachings -- in all things to be like Him and filled with the spirit of His love."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 6)

God has instilled in man a sense of shame.

329. God has instilled in man a sense of shame as a defense against doing what is wrongful: God has instilled, in man, a sense of shame, or some would call it a conscience, to help man determine what's right from what is wrong. All men possess this property, but on some their hearts have become so callus that they do not sense these things any more so the sense of shame no longer function as a deterrent against what is right actions from what is wrong actions; allowing people to steal, kill, fornicate, etc..., and these people don't feel the wrongness of their actions that are buried so deep in their corruption filled hearts that these feelings just don't make a difference any more. This is of course something that is found in all of God's religions but its function as a deterrent is not so widely expressed. Judaism: Sirach 4:20 "Observe the opportunity, and beware of evil; and be not ashamed when it concerneth thy soul. For there is a shame that

bringeth sin; and there is a shame which is glory and grace." "but the unjust knoweth no shame." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, and Zephaniah) ✝ Christianity: 2 Corinthians 1:12 "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God." Romans 8:27 "He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit." "the testimony of our conscience." "for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly." 1 Peter 4:16 "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (and) Hebrews 9:14 "Purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." (Romans, 2 Corinthians, Hebrews, 1 Peter)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The first word which the Abha Pen hath revealed and inscribed on the first leaf of Paradise is this: 'Verily I say: The fear of God hath ever been a sure defense and a safe stronghold for all the peoples of the world. It is the chief cause of the protection of mankind, and the supreme instrument for its preservation. Indeed, there existeth in man a faculty which deterreth him from, and guardeth him against, whatever is unworthy and unseemly, and which is known as his sense of shame. This, however, is confined to but a few; all have not possessed, and do not possess, it. It is incumbent upon the kings and the spiritual leaders of the world to lay fast hold on religion, inasmuch as through it the fear of God is instilled in all else but Him."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 27)

No Solicitation! God's servants don't seek our worldly goods.

330. No Solicitation! God's servants don't seek our worldly goods. Solicitation of property and money is not appropriate for religion in the sight of god: In the Bahá'í Faith we view it as wrong to solicit for money or property in the name of God. It is the right of every Bahá'í to choose for him or herself whether they wish to

give to the fund or not. Giving to the faith is a private matter and the action of giving to God is a gift and a bounty for the person that is giving. Christianity: 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." God loves those that give of their own free will, not because giving is dictated to them.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Should it ever please Us to appropriate to Our own use all the treasures of the earth, to none is given the right to question Our authority, or to challenge Our right. It would be impossible to conceive any act more contemptible than soliciting, in the name of the one true God, the riches which men possess."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 201)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 21:12 "And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves," Matthew 21:13 "And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." Jesus Christ himself was outraged at the use of God's house for anything but prayer. The use of the temple for greed and the collection of money was unacceptable in the eyes of God, and Christ demonstrated this by physically throwing the moneychangers out of the temple.

BAHA'I FAITH: "It is improper for Bahá'ís to solicit funds from non-Bahá'ís in the name of the Faith for any purpose."

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 121)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 19:21 "Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." Matthew 8:20 "And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Jesus

was so poor that he didn't even have a place to rest his head, but when a wealthy man ask him what he should do to become a servant of God Jesus told him to sell his possessions and give it to the poor. Jesus didn't even for a minute think of asking something for himself in his quest to promote the work of God. Worldly possessions didn't matter to Jesus or those that followed him.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Contributions to the local and national Funds are of a purely voluntary character; that no coercion or solicitation of funds is to be tolerated in the Cause;"

(Shoghi Effendi, The World Order of Baha'u'llah, p. 9)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 6:1 "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 6:2 "Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." Matthew 6:3 "But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:" Matthew 6:4 "That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." The giving of alms, Christ clearly states, is a private thing, not a matter that is to be shared with those around you, but a private matter that is to be done in secret, Matthew 6:3 "let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:" This is the same in the Bahá'í Faith. We are asked to give to the fund in private not in the viewing of others. What we give is to be in secret only known to God. Matthew 6:4 "That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly."

BAHA'I FAITH: "One of the distinguishing features of the Cause of God is its principle of non-acceptance of financial contributions for its own purposes from non-Bahá'ís: support of the Bahá'í fund is a bounty reserved by Bahá'u'lláh to His declared followers." "It is absolutely

forbidden in the Faith to accept from non-Bahá'ís contributions towards the work of the Cause itself."

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, pp. 250 and 254)

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 10:17 "For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:" Sirach 40:26 "Riches and strength lift up the heart: but the fear of the Lord is above them both: there is no want in the fear of the Lord, and it needeth not to seek help." 23:1 "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, and Psalms 23:1)**

Tithing is another form of giving, it is for God's use, it is an amount of wealth set aside for the use of God's servants in God's house: Judaism: Leviticus 27:30 "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD." The tithe is not the giving of alms that Jesus was talking about. The tithe is separate it is the way a certain portion of the increase of man's wealth can be put into use doing the will of God. The tithe can be used to feed the poor or take care of the needy, it can be used to take care of the clergy and take care of the people during times of extreme hardship. The tithe is one way to see to it that some good comes out of our labors in this life and a way to show our God that His will is all important in our lives. Leviticus 27:32 "And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD." Deuteronomy 14:28 "At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates:" Deuteronomy 14:29 "And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest. The rest of the tithe is to be used to feed the poor and the needy which are in Gods care:" Deuteronomy 14:22 "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year." Deuteronomy 14:23 "And thou shalt eat

before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always."

In the Bahá'í Faith we also have tithing by the title of huquqllah (the right of God). This wealth is also used for matters of the faith and the care for the needs of the faith.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The offering of the Huququ'lláh is a spiritual obligation, the fulfillment of which has been left to the conscience of each Bahá'í. While the community is reminded of the requirements of the law of Huquq, no believer may be approached individually to pay it."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 218)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Solicitation of Huquq is in no wise permitted."**

(Compilations, Huququ'lláh)

Share our wealth.

331. Share our wealth: One of the teachings found in the religions of God is that we need to share our wealth with those in need, that in heaven we will obtain spiritual wealth from God: Christianity: Matthew 19:21 "Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." Acts 4:32 "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." Acts 4:33 "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:34 "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses

sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold," Acts 4:35 "And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need." Acts 4:36 "And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus," Acts 4:37 "Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet." 1 John 3:17 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." God loves those that give of their own free will.

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 15:7 "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:" 15:8 "But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth." Deuteronomy 15:11 "For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land." Proverbs 3:27 "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it." Proverbs 19:17 "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will He pay him again." Isaiah 1:17 "Seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." Job 29:12 "I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him." Job 29:13 "The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy." Job 29:15 "I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame." Job 29:16 "I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out." 4 Ezra 2:20 "Do right to the widow, judge for the fatherless, give to the poor, defend the orphan, clothe the naked," (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Among the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh is voluntary sharing of one's property with others among mankind. This voluntary sharing is greater than equality, and consists in this, that man should not prefer himself to others, but rather should sacrifice his life and property for others. But this should not be introduced by coercion so that it becomes a law and man is compelled to follow it. Nay, rather, man should voluntarily and of his own choice sacrifice his property and life for others, and spend willingly for the poor,"**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 288)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer to the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, Bahá'u'lláh p. 93)

Sin and sinning.

332. <u>Sin and sinning is a topic found in God's religions</u>: Sin and the committing of sin and the forgiveness of sin from out of God's grace and mercy, is a topic found in the religions of God. Sin, as an action, is strongly discouraged by God's prophets and is considered to be an act worthy of punishment by God. The concept of sin and the actions and reactions to sin, from God, seems to be a subject that is universally the same throughout all the religions of God, whether the religion is old or fairly recent: <u>Judaism:</u> <u>Genesis</u> 4:7 "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door." <u>Deuteronomy</u> 23:21 "When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee." <u>Proverbs</u> 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." <u>Psalms</u> 4:4 "Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still." <u>Ecclesiastes</u> 5:6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; <u>Ezekiel</u> 3:20 "When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand." <u>Ezekiel</u> 3:21 "Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul."

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "As for those who commit sin and cling to the world they are assuredly not of the people of Baha."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 42)

<u>CHRISTIANITY</u>: <u>John</u> 8:34 "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." <u>Matthew</u> 12:31 "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men." 1 <u>Corinthians</u> 8:12 "But

when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:33 "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." 15:34 "Awake to righteousness, and sin not;" 1 John 5:17 "All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death." Hebrews 3:13 "But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." James 4:17 "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is my dearest hope that you may all become a blessing to others, that you may give sight to the spiritually blind, hearing to the spiritually deaf and life to those who are dead in sin."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 100)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If ye become aware of a sin committed by another, conceal it, that God may conceal your own sin."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 55)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Should anyone be afflicted by a sin, it behoveth him to repent thereof and return unto his Lord. He, verily, granteth forgiveness unto Whomsoever He willeth,"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 37)

Many people sleep.

333. Many people sleep: Many people are asleep to the word of God when God's manifestations appear in the world of man. And, a great number of people slumber when it comes to the word of God completely unaware of the true spiritual nature of the word of God and its deeper hidden truths and meanings. Christianity: 2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:" The people

of God try to educate the unaware and open their eyes to God's message, but most of the people just slumber on. Romans 13:11 "Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Yet most of the people are remaining lost in a fog of slumber. Romans 13:12 "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." And still the people see not.

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 56:10 "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber." Proverbs 6:9 "How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?" Proverbs 6:10 "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep."**  **Christianity: 1 Corinthians 11:30 "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep." 1 Corinthians 15:20 "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." 1 Corinthians 15:51 "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed," 1 Thessalonians 4:13 "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." 1 Thessalonians 5:6 "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." 1 Thessalonians 5:7 "For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night." 1 Thessalonians 5:8 "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." 1 Thessalonians 5:9 "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ," 1 Thessalonians 5:10 "Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him." 2 Peter 34 "And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Notwithstanding, they are still oblivious of this truth, and in the sleep of heedlessness, are pursuing the vanities of the world, and are occupied with thoughts of vain and earthly leadership."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 227)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: 62. "O SON OF MAN! Many a day hath passed over thee whilst thou hast busied thyself with thy fancies and idle imaginings. How long art thou to slumber on thy bed? Lift up thy head from slumber, for the Sun hath risen to the zenith, haply it may shine upon thee with the light of beauty."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We enjoin the servants of God and His handmaidens to be pure and to fear God, that they may shake off the slumber of their corrupt desires, and turn toward God, the Maker of the heavens and of the earth."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 23)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Shake off, O heedless ones, the slumber of negligence, that ye may behold the radiance which His glory hath spread through the world. How foolish are those who murmur against the premature birth of His light. O ye who are inkly blind! Whether too soon or too late, the evidences of His effulgent glory are now actually manifest. It behoveth you to ascertain whether or not such a light hath appeared."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 102)

Be not slothful!

334. Be not slothful! We are not created to be heedless and unproductive in this world we are living in. The religions of God tell us we are intended to take an active part in our spiritual development and make an impact on the physical

world we live in: Christianity: Hebrews 6:12 "Be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Judaism: Proverbs 6:6 "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:" Proverbs 18:9 "He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster." Proverbs 19:15 "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger." Proverbs 21:25 "The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour." Christianity: Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" Romans 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;"

BAHA'I FAITH: "This is a brilliant century. Eyes are now open to the beauty of the oneness of humanity, of love and of brotherhood. The darkness of suppression will disappear and the light of unity will shine. We cannot bring love and unity to pass merely by talking of it. Knowledge is not enough. Wealth, science, education are good, we know: but we must also work and study to bring to maturity the fruit of knowledge." (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 54) "Waste not your hours in idleness and sloth, but occupy yourselves with what will profit you and others." (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 30)

BAHA'I FAITH: "It is enjoined upon every one of you to engage in some form of occupation, such as crafts, trades and the like. We have graciously exalted your engagement in such work to the rank of worship unto God, the True One."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 26)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Waste not your time in idleness and sloth. Occupy yourselves with that which profiteth yourselves and others." (Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 26) "Guard against idleness and sloth, and cling unto that which profiteth mankind, whether young or old, whether high or low. Beware lest ye sow tares of dissension among men or plant thorns of doubt in pure and radiant hearts." (Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 138)

The soul of man develops in stages.

335. <u>The soul of man develops in stages forever progressing towards its Creator</u>. Some people are of the opinion that once a person is saved that nothing else is needed; but we find, in the Bahá'í writings, that this belief may not necessarily be the case. The Bahá'í writings tell us that once we step unto this spiritual track we have only just begun. The writings tell us that we are on a path that goes on forever; and, on this path, mankind will be developing deeper spirituality and moving closer to God and becoming more God like for the rest of eternity; and once we die this spiritual process only intensifies for us. Some people may think that this is wrong and once we die we are perfect, but the writings tell us there are infinite levels of perfection and we will go on becoming a better more spiritual being forever and ever throughout all of eternity; which only makes sense, because throughout this life we have only continued to grow spiritually, and it only makes sense that after the death of this earthly body we will only continue to develop spiritually. In this belief I have found that Christianity agrees with the teachings of The Bahá'í Faith in this matter. ✝ <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Martin Luther</u> "Therefore it is given for a daily pasture and sustenance, that faith may refresh and strengthen itself so as not to fall back in such a battle, but become ever stronger and stronger. For the new life must be so regulated that it continually increase and progress." ✡ <u>Judaism:</u> <u>Proverbs</u> 92:12 "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow (in spirit) like a cedar in Lebanon." <u>Proverbs</u> 92:13 "Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God." <u>Isaiah</u> 53:1 "To whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?" 53:2 "For he shall grow up before Him as a tender plant," developing his soul in spiritual degrees. ✝ <u>Christianity</u>: 1 <u>Thessalonians</u> "We beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more." 2 <u>Corinthians</u> "Increase the fruits of your righteousness; Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness." 1 <u>Peter</u> 2:2 "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:" 2 <u>Peter</u> 3:18 "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge." 2:3 "If so be, ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Humanity may be likened to a tree. This tree has branches, leaves, buds and fruit. Think of all men as being flowers, leaves or buds of this tree, and try to help each and all to realize and enjoy God's blessings. God neglects none: He loves all."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The only real difference that exists between people is that they are at various stages of development. Some are imperfect -- these must be brought to perfection. Some are asleep -- they must be awakened; some are negligent -- they must be roused; but one and all are the children of God."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 170)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "And now concerning thy question whether human souls continue to be conscious one of another after their separation from the body. Know thou that the souls of the people of Baha, who have entered and been established within the Crimson Ark, shall associate and commune intimately one with another, and shall be so closely associated in their lives, their aspirations, their aims and strivings as to be even as one soul. They are indeed the ones who are well-informed, who are keen-sighted, and who are endued with understanding. Thus hath it been decreed by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The people of Baha, who are the inmates of the Ark of God, are, one and all, well aware of one another's state and condition, and are united in the bonds of intimacy and fellowship. Such a state, however, must depend upon their faith and their conduct. They that are of the same grade and station are fully aware of one another's capacity, character, accomplishments and merits. They that are of a lower grade, however, are incapable of comprehending adequately the station, or of estimating the merits, of those that rank above them. Each shall receive his share from thy Lord. Blessed is the man that hath turned his face towards God, and walked steadfastly in His love,**

until his soul hath winged its flight unto God, the Sovereign Lord of all, the Most Powerful, the Ever-Forgiving, the All-Merciful."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 169)

Manifestations speak by God's will.

336. Manifestations speak by God's will. All the religions of God tell us that God's manifestations don't speak of their own will, but they speak what God tells them to say: God speaks to mankind through the mouths of the prophets. Moses indicated this in Exodus, Judaism: Exodus 4:11 "And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?" Exodus 4:12 "Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." Exodus 4:15 "And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do." God was with the mouth of Moses while he was on this earth. Moses didn't speak for himself but spoke that which God told him to speak. Numbers 16:28 "And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind." Moses also prophesied that God would raise up a prophet like Moses and God would put the words into his mouth as well. Deuteronomy 18:18 "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." We now know that prophet to be Jesus Christ who spoke by God's command. Christianity: John 8:26 "I have many things to say and to judge of you: but He that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of Him." John 8:27 "They understood not that he spake to them of the Father." John 8:28 "Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." John 8:29 "And He

that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

Jesus tells us he does the things that please the Father and he speaks what the Father commands:
Christianity: John 12:49 "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, He gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak."

Jesus, like Moses before him, also prophesied that the next prophet to come after him, the spirit of truth in this case, will not speak of himself but will speak the things God tells him to speak.
Christianity: John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but what-so-ever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

Bahá'u'lláh (The Glory of God) came as prophesied by Christ and he did not speak of himself, but he spoke by God's command that which God wanted said.


BAHA'I FAITH: "This Wronged One speaketh wholly for the sake of God,"

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 18)


BAHA'I FAITH: "I speak naught except at His bidding, and follow not, through the power of God and His might, except His truth. He, verily, shall recompense the truthful."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 126)


BAHA'I FAITH: "We perceived no one sufficiently mature to acquire from Us the truths which God hath taught Us, nor ripe for Our wondrous words of wisdom."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 126)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know ye that trials and tribulations have, from time immemorial, been the lot of the chosen Ones of God and His beloved, and such of His servants as are detached from all else but Him, they whom neither merchandise nor traffic beguile from the remembrance of the Almighty, they that speak not till He hath spoken, and act according to His commandment."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 129)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "I lay asleep on my couch, O my God, when lo, the gentle winds of Thy grace and Thy loving-kindness passed over me, and wakened me through the power of Thy sovereignty and Thy gifts, and bade me arise before Thy servants, and speak forth Thy praise, and glorify Thy word."**

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 305)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "By the righteousness of God! I speak not falsely, and utter naught save that which God hath bidden Me."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 207)

Speak not unwisely.

337. Speak not unwisely. In the Bahá'í Faith we are cautioned to speak wisely and to refrain from excess speech. We are encouraged to use our head and think about what we are going to say before we say it. That way many feelings can be spared the hurt of foolish words and misunderstandings can be limited much of the time.

BAHA'I FAITH: "The spiritually learned must be characterized by both inward and outward perfections; they must possess a good character, an enlightened nature, a pure intent, as well as intellectual power, brilliance and discernment, intuition, discretion and foresight, temperance, reverence, and a heartfelt fear of God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 33)

This is also true of Christianity if one looks for it in the bible. Judaism: Isaiah 28:23 "Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech." Isaiah 28:26 "For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him." Christianity: Matthew 15:16 "And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding?" Matthew 15:17 "Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?" Matthew 15:18 "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man."

BAHA'I FAITH: "That seeker must, at all times, put his trust in God, must renounce the peoples of the earth, must detach himself from the world of dust, and cleave unto Him Who is the Lord of Lords. He must never seek to exalt himself above any one, must wash away from the tablet of his heart every trace of pride and vain-glory, must cling unto patience and resignation, observe silence and refrain from idle talk. For the tongue is a smoldering fire, and excess of speech a deadly poison. Material fire consumeth the body, whereas the fire of the tongue devoureth both heart and soul. The force of the former lasteth but for a time, whilst the effects of the latter endureth a century."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 264)

Spiritual civilization a coming reality not a myth.

338. Spiritual civilization a coming reality not a myth. In the writings of Bahá'u'lláh the framework is outlined for a new spiritual

civilization that will take mankind into the future. The idea of a new spiritual civilization coming to mankind is not a completely new idea this idea was hinted at over 2000 years ago by Jesus Christ and talked about in the Old Testament.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh taught that hearts must receive the Bounty of the Holy Spirit, so that Spiritual civilization may be established. For material civilization is not adequate for the needs of mankind and cannot be the cause of its happiness. Material civilization is like the body and spiritual civilization is like the soul. Body without soul cannot live."**  **Christianity: James 2:26 "The body without the spirit is also dead.**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 29 and (King James Bible))

The concept of a new spiritual civilization is found in several books of the bible and in prayers Jesus Christ himself gave us indicating God's spiritual kingdom will be brought to this earth.  **Christianity: Matthew 6:9 "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Matthew 6:10 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Luke 11:2 "And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh has announced that no matter how far the world of humanity may advance in material civilization, it is nevertheless in need of spiritual virtues and the bounties of God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 58)

For 2000 years men have been praying that prayer and it wasn't for nothing. In the last two books of the bible the coming of the city is described to us and it is described in glorious detail. The description is highly symbolic of course, but one gets an idea from the glorious

narrative that life on this earth will be truly wonderful, filled with peace happiness and tranquility.

Christianity: Revelations 21:3 "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." Revelations 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelations 21:5 "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." Revelations 21:22 "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." Revelations 21:23 "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." Revelations 21:24 "And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it." Revelations 21:25 "And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there." Revelations 21:26 "And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it." Revelations 21:27 "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." Revelations 22:1 "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." Revelations 22:2 "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." Revelations 22:3 "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:" Revelations 22:4 "And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads." Revelations 22:5 "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever." This is the scene one gets when they read the last two books of the bible, one of tranquility and peace, a vision of hope and rejuvenation for a troubled world. It doesn't take an individual with a lot of imagination to envision the serene, tranquil description of the world of the future. This is the vision of a spiritual world, the vision of a world of a new spiritual

civilization rising out of the chaos of an old decrepit world order that can't resolve the problems facing the world of today. John in Revelations chapters 21 and 22 describes the birth of a new spiritual world order that will take mankind to a new level of civilization far surpassing anything mankind has ever been able to achieve in the past due to the corruptive nature of mankind. This will not be the case with this new world of man because The Glory of God will be the light of this new world order, monitoring mankind, keeping man in check by addressing the spiritual needs of mankind as he develops, securing the future for our race.

 **JUDAISM: Daniel 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him." Daniel 7:14 "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed." Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:7 "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever." Micah 4:1 "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it." Micah 4:2 "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD." Micah 4:3 "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Micah 4:4 "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it." Micah 4:5 "For all**

people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Material civilization is like unto the lamp, while spiritual civilization is the light in that lamp. If the material and spiritual civilization become united, then we will have the light and the lamp together, and the outcome will be perfect. For material civilization is like unto a beautiful body, and spiritual civilization is like unto the spirit of life. If that wondrous spirit of life enters this beautiful body, the body will become a channel for the distribution and development of the perfections of humanity."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 11)

Spiritual sickness of the soul.

339. Spiritual sickness of the soul. Doing God's will, living the life He has out lined for us to follow, is considered to be living in God's eyes, while the absence of God, living only for the things of this worldly life, is considered to be a kind of spiritual death and illness to the spirit inside of man: I have been told, by some religious people, that the soul God created is perfect and therefore can't suffer from illnesses or spiritual afflictions, but I ask you, if our soul has spiritual requirements, even though it's essence is created to be perfect in God's image, does it not stand to reason that if that soul is not having it's spiritual requirements met, due to, for example, distance from God's spiritual graces and tender loving care, then does it not stand to reason that, that spiritual essence known as the human soul or spirit might not be living a life style that is conducive to its spiritual health and well-being. I mean where do we really think all these murderers and psychopaths are coming from? It can't be due to spiritual health and well-being, I mean didn't Christ call himself a spiritual physician. Christianity: Mark 2:16 "And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and

drinketh with publicans and sinners?" 2:17 "When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Jesus was one of many spiritual physicians that have been sent to man by God at different intervals of time to heal man of his spiritual afflictions and help man overcome his moral deficiencies in our trouble filled lives. Luke 1:70 "As He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began:" Acts 3:21 "God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "These ailing ones must be tended by spiritual physicians, these who are the lost need gentle guides -- so that from such souls the bereft may receive their portion, and the deprived obtain their share, and the poor discover in such as they unmeasured wealth, and the seekers hear from them unanswerable proofs."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 272)

So, it is definitely apparent that mankind does in fact, at various times, need spiritual physicians to come to this world to help the ailing souls of mankind with differing spiritual ailments. On the other hand, when we, as a human species listen to and observe God's statutes and precepts all is well with our souls. Deuteronomy 4:4 "But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day." In the writings of God's messengers, Bahá'í, Christian, or otherwise, living the life God has out lined for us is considered being spiritually alive and healthful to the soul of man; while living outside of His law is considered living the life of the animal-beast, lurking inside of man, thinking only of material pleasures, and what we can get for ourselves out of this world; which is considered as being spiritually dead or spiritually unhealthy in the eyes of God: Christianity: 1 Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die:" Judaism: Psalms 41:4 "I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee." Again, we hear it right out of the writings of the bible,

living for the material pleasures leads humanity to a kind of spiritual death or sickness, because if man is strictly focused on the pleasures of this world, and on the flesh, he is not thinking about God or the development of his soul; he is thinking about mortal gain and what he can get out of this physical life. He is not thinking about how to become a better more enlightened soul, he is thinking about how to acquire more material wealth and what his status is in this world. This, as the spiritual writings tell us, is not the way to the development of the soul in man; It is the way to spiritual deprivation and spiritual disease and malnutrition of the soul.

Some may think this is an odd way of describing the human soul, as being malnourished, but the spiritual side of mankind, the human soul, as pointed out earlier, has requirement as well as the human body does and when these spiritual requirements are not being met you have an unhealthy soul that is in dire need of spiritual substance and healing, which can only come from God and our living within the bounds He has laid out for us. Otherwise our spiritual nature is sickly and not flourishing towards ethereal well-being: Bahá'í Faith: "How often do we see a man, poor, sick, miserably clad, and with no means of support, yet spiritually strong. Whatever his body has to suffer, his spirit is free and well! Again, how often do we see a rich man, physically strong and healthy, but with a soul sick unto death." Man is in need of spiritual sustenance if he is really going to grow spiritually: "It is quite apparent to the seeing mind that a man's spirit is something very different from his physical body." "The spirit is changeless, indestructible. The progress and development of the soul, the joy and sorrow of the soul, are independent of the physical body." Christianity: 3 John 1:2 "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." "If we are caused joy or pain by a friend, if a love prove true or false, it is the soul that is affected. If our dear ones are far from us -- it is the soul that grieves, and the grief or trouble of the soul may react on the body."

"Thus, when the spirit is fed with holy virtues, then is the body joyous; if the soul falls into sin, the body is in torment!" "When we find truth, constancy, fidelity, and love, we are happy; but if we meet with

lying, faithlessness, and deceit, we are miserable." (Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 65 and Christianity: 3 John 1:2)

Requirements for a healthy, ethereally flourishing, soul progressing towards a good quality spiritual well balance self are also further explained in the Bahá'í writings: Bahá'í Faith: "The requirements are that your minds must be illumined, your souls must be rejoiced with the glad tidings of God, you must become imbued with spiritual moralities, your daily life must evidence faith and assurance, your hearts must be sanctified and pure, reflecting a high degree of love and attraction toward the Kingdom of Abha." Judaism: Proverbs 16:24 "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." Bahá'í Faith: "We see that cold, heat, suffering, etc, only concern the body, they do not touch the spirit." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 460) "Strive therefore, with heart and soul, to follow the precepts of the Blessed Perfection (Baha'u'llah), and rest assured that if ye succeed in living the life he marks out for you, Eternal Life and everlasting joy in the Heavenly Kingdom will be yours, and celestial sustenance will be sent to strengthen you all your days."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 113)

BAHA'I FAITH: "They, however, that have failed to seek this shelter, have deprived themselves of this privilege, and are powerless to benefit from the spiritual sustenance that hath been sent down through the heavenly grace of this Most Great Name." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 189) Judaism: Psalms 42:11 "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance."

Those who have deprived themselves of this glorious, indomitable God given bounty will still exist in this life and in the next life, but their existence, their spiritual capacity, will be greatly diminished from the exulted station they could have achieved in this earthly life. They will go on existing, and though their plight will be dire, you can't exist in this life without some spiritual development occurring. Everything

dealing with that soul will be moving in slow motion; which, according to the books of God, is a condition of man being unenlightened, and this, according to the writings of God's holy prophets, is a form of spiritual death. Bahá'í Faith: "Thus do the unbelievers seek to remedy the sickness of their hearts, utterly heedless that they thus render themselves accursed of all who dwell in heaven and on earth."

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 26)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Physical life, in comparison with eternal life in the Kingdom, is considered as death. So Christ called the physical life death, and said: 'Let the dead bury their dead.' Though those souls possessed physical life, yet in His eyes that life was death."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 126)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 8:22 "But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead." Which, is another way of saying let the unenlightened souls, which are those lacking in spiritual development and health, bury the souls of those that have passed on out of this mortal life. Sirach 34:17 "He raiseth up the soul....He giveth health, life, and blessing." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,)

BAHA'I FAITH: "These are the counsels of Abdu'l-Bahá' 'It is my hope that out of the bestowals of the Lord of Hosts ye will become the spiritual essence and the very radiance of humankind, binding the hearts of all with bonds of love; that through the power of the Word of God ye will bring to life the dead now buried in the graves of their sensual desires; that ye will, with the rays of the Sun of Truth, restore the sight of those whose inner eye is blind; that ye will bring spiritual healing to the spiritually sick."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 36)

God wants us to worship Him with our spirits, spiritually not just go through the physical motions.

340. God wants us to worship Him with our spirits, spiritually not just go through the physical motions and physical actions of this earthly life with no real heart involved. Bahá'í Faith: **"One hour's reflection is preferable to seventy years of pious worship." (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 237)**

God wants us to be spiritually alive not approach him with lifeless hearts. Christianity: Revelations 3:15 "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot." Revelations 3:16 "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." God wants us to be spiritually alive not just going through the motions of religious rituals and rites with our hearts not really involved devoid of spiritual emotions. Bahá'í Faith "That which God (glorious is His mention) hath desired for Himself is the hearts of His servants, which are treasures of praise and love of the Lord and stores of divine knowledge and wisdom."

(Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 63)

Come to God with a spiritual heart and not some dried up doctrine (i.e. words that have been created by man as an interpretation of the holy writings); which has long since out grown its usefulness. Christianity: Matthew 16:12 "Then understood they how that he (Jesus) bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees." So, in other words, look past the man-made doctrine and dogma into the spiritual nature of the word of God and focus on becoming spiritual beings unhindered by superstition or tradition: Judaism: 1 Samuel 15:22 "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." Proverbs 21:3 "To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice." Ecclesiastes 5:1 "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God,

and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil." Hosea 6:6 "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." Christianity: Mark 7:6 "He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." Mark 12:32 "And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but He:" Mark 12:33 "And to love Him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." Ephesians 6:5 "Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;" Ephesians 6:6 "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;" 1 John 2:4 "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 1 John 2:5 "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know We that We are in him."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O friends! Prefer not your will to Mine, never desire that which I have not desired for you, and approach Me not with lifeless hearts, defiled with worldly desires and cravings."

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

CHRISTIANITY: John 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." That which is flesh is only flesh and that which is of the spiritual side of man is spiritual in nature and is apart from our physical bodies. John 4:23 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." God wants our hearts, He wants us to love him, He is not looking for people who just mouth their prayers but whose words are empty. Matthew 22: 37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All that is in heaven and earth I have ordained for thee, except the human heart, which I have made the habitation of My beauty and glory;"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." If we desire to approach His holy court we have to become spiritual for the flesh cannot approach God. 1 Corinthians 15:50 "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" Flesh and blood cannot enter heaven so it is our spiritual form that is of interest to God. John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." It is the spirit that is considered by Christ to be the true living essence in man, the flesh, or the animal, doesn't profit us. It is our spirit that connects us to The Heavenly Father. It is the spirit inside of us that we must try to become aware of if we are to spiritually develop and become more than just an animal that talks.**  **Judaism: Ecclesiastes 3:20 "All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again." 3:21 "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In brief, let each one of you be as a lamp shining forth with the light of the virtues of the world of humanity. Be trustworthy, sincere, affectionate and replete with chastity. Be illumined, be spiritual, be divine, be glorious, be quickened of God, be a Bahá'í."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 453)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 3:4 "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." 1 Peter 4:6 "For, for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are**

dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "For the dearest wish of this wronged one is that the friends be spiritual of heart and illumined of mind, and once this grace is granted me, calamity, however afflictive, is but bounty pouring down upon me, like copious rain."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 221)

Son of God, we are all God's children.

341. Son of God, we are all God's children. Some people in Christianity say that the greatness of Christ is that he was born of a virgin, that he had no earthly father and he was the son of God. The Bahá'í Faith tells us that the greatness of Christ was due to the actions of Christ and not whether he had an earthly father or not:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "A great man is a great man, whether born of a human father or not. If being without a father is a virtue, Adam is greater and more excellent than all the Prophets and Messengers, for He had neither father nor mother. That which causes honor and greatness is the splendor and bounty of the divine perfections."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 89)

Some people, as I said, stress that the greatness of Christ is due to the fact that he was the son of god, but I ask you what does Christ say about this: Christianity: Luke 3:38 "Adam, which was the son of God." Matthew 5:45 "Be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

Christ tells us that we are all the children of one father, the sons and daughters of one God. We are told this in the Bahá'í writings, we are told this in the bible, we are told this by Christ himself. Matthew 5:45 "be the children of your Father which is in heaven:" Christ was clear on this, we are the children of our Father in heaven, but he was not alone in stating that we are the children of God, John tells us: 1 John 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:" John tells us that we are sons of God. John further reiterates this in 1 John 3:2 by stating it again: 1 John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God," Now are we the sons of God! John couldn't be any clearer on this we are sons of God. John considers us to be God's children, Christ considers us to be God's children and Bahá'u'lláh considers us to be God's children:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh taught the Oneness of humanity; that is to say, all the children of men are under the mercy of the Great God. They are the sons of one God; they are trained by God. He has placed the crown of humanity on the head of every one of the servants of God. Therefore all nations and peoples must consider themselves brethren."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 28)

Bahá'u'lláh tells us that we are all God's children so we need to treat each other like fellow brethren. Thinking this way could lead to the end of conflict within humanity, it could lead to the end of warfare throughout the world, because we would treat each other like family and not as strangers. **Christianity: Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." The peacemakers will be called the children of God. But who are the peacemakers? We are the peacemakers, the people who treat each other like fellow brothers and sisters who care what happens to one another like the children of one family would. Romans 8:16 "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:" The Spirit (The Spirit of God) beareth witness that we are the members of the one human family spoken of in the bible, we are the children of God:**

BAHA'I FAITH: "Look upon the people of your own race and those of other races as members of one organism; sons of the same Father; let it be known by your behaviour that you are indeed the people of God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 82)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 5:2 "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments." We love the children of God when we love God by keeping His commandments. One thing to think about is that one of His greatest commandments is to love thy neighbor Matthew 22:39 "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." This means that since we are the children of God we should love one another because we are the children of one Father, not strangers to ignore one another. Judaism: Malachi 2:10 "Have we not all one Father? hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother?" Even in the Old Testament we are told we are all the children of one Father, so why Do We deal treacherously with one another? Surly, it can't really be out of ignorance, the religions are clear on this, we are the brothers and sisters of one family! Christianity: Acts 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth." Even Paul tells us we are the children, the sons and daughters, of one God. John 1:12 "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name:" John tells us that being a son of God is in our power. Romans 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." And Paul tells us we that are led by the Spirit of God are considered the sons of God, while Christ tells us in Luke 20:36 that we are equal unto the angels and we are the children of God. Luke 20:36 "Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection." John further tells us, in Revelations, that God will be our Father and we will

be His sons and daughters: Revelations 21:6 "I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Let this gathering be a foreshadowing of what will, in very truth, take place in this world, when every child of God realizes that they are leaves of one tree, flowers in one garden, drops in one ocean, and sons and daughters of one Father, whose name is Love!"**

(H.M. Balyuzi, Abdu'l-Baha - The Centre of the Covenant, p. 162)

The straight path.

342. The straight path. The writings of God tell us that God is leading mankind on a path that is a straight path leading mankind to a spiritual world where we can grow and develop to our true spiritual potential: Bahá'í Faith: "He hath none to equal Him in the whole universe, nor any partner in all creation. He hath sent forth His Messengers, and sent down His Books, that they may announce unto His creatures the Straight Path."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 98)

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 28:20 "God will be with me, and will keep me in this way (on this path) that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on," 2 Esdras 14:22 "But if I have found grace before Thee, send the Holy Ghost into me, and I shall write all that hath been done in the world since the beginning, which were written in Thy law, that men may find Thy path, and that they which will live in the latter days may live." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, (Ezra 4)) Psalms 25:5 "Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me: for Thou art the God of my salvation; on Thee do I wait all the day." Psalms 25:4 "Shew me Thy ways, O LORD; teach me Thy paths." Psalms 27:11 "Teach me Thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path," Psalms 5:8 "Make Thy way straight before my face." Joel 2:8 "They shall walk every one in His**

path:" Micah 4:2 "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Thank God for guiding thee unto the Straight Path," (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 361) "Blessed are ye for having been chosen by God for His love, in this new age, and joy be to you for having been guided to the Great Kingdom! Verily, your Lord hath chosen you to show the path to the Kingdom of God, among the people." (Bahá'í Faith, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 84)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 3:3 "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." Matthew 7:13 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at:" Matthew 7:14 "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The nature of the soul after death can never be described, nor is it meet and permissible to reveal its whole character to the eyes of men. The Prophets and Messengers of God have been sent down for the sole purpose of guiding mankind to the straight Path of Truth."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 156)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Every created thing in the whole universe is but a door leading into His knowledge, a sign of His sovereignty, a revelation of His names, a symbol of His majesty, a token of His power, a means of admittance into His straight Path...."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 160)

Develop spiritual strength to withstand tests.

343. <u>God will help those who believe to Develop spiritual strength to withstand tests</u>. We are supposed to try, with God's assistance, to develop our true spiritual self, so we become more God like on this earth and become more prepared for our existence, in the next phase of our life, in the next world. To do this, one of the things we need is spiritual strength, to withstand the tests of this life, and become more fit to take up our spiritual roll for our existence in the next life; or, in simple terms, through these God given hardships we strengthen and develop our spiritual character in order to be more prepared to meet with and coexist with the spiritual life in the next world. <u>Bahá'í Faith</u>: "Well is it with the man of discernment who hath recognized and perceived the Truth, and the one possessed of a hearing ear who hath hearkened unto His sweet Voice, and the hand that hath received His Book with such resolve as is born of God, the Lord of this world and of the next, and the earnest wayfarer who hath hastened unto His glorious Horizon, and the one endued with strength whom neither the overpowering might of the rulers, nor the tumult raised by the leaders of religion hath been able to shake." This is one of the ways the believers in the Bahá'í Faith define having spiritual strength through God. We find that the other religions of God also relate the gaining of spiritual strength with the assistance coming from God as well.

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 47)

<u>JUDAISM</u>: <u>Enoch</u> 41:8 "Who made a separation between the light and the darkness, And divided the spirits of men, And strengthened the spirits of the righteous, In the name of His righteousness." (Apocrypha)
<u>Ecclesiastes</u> 7:19 "Wisdom strengtheneth the wise, For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." <u>Ezra</u> 7:27 "And I was strengthened as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me," <u>Psalms</u> 27:14 "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." <u>Psalms</u> 31:24 "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in

the LORD." Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I Am with thee: be not dismayed; for I Am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." ✝ Christianity: 2 Timothy 4:17 "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me;" Ephesians 3:16 "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;" 1 Peter 5:10 "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." 5:11 "To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

"We must always look ahead and seek to accomplish in the future what we may have failed to do in the past. Failures, tests, and trials, if we use them correctly, can become the means of purifying our spirit, strengthening our characters, and enable us to rise to greater heights of service."

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 601)

Strive for, seek out God.

344. Strive for God, all the religions of God tell us to do this. Seek Him always, with all thy being: ✵Bahá'í Faith: "Bahá'u'lláh has said that God will assist all those who arise in His service. The more you labour for His Faith, the more He will aid and bless you."

(Bahá'í Faith, Compilations, The Compilation of Compilations vol II, p. 221)

✡ JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 4:29 "Thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul." 1 Chronicles 17:2 "Do all that is in thine heart; for God," Psalms 86:12 "I will praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify Thy name for evermore." 1 Chronicles 22:19 "Now set your

heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God;" Sirach 4:28 "Strive for the truth unto death, and the Lord shall fight for thee." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) 2 Kings 7:3 "Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD." ✝ Christianity: John 6:27 "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed." Romans 15:30 "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God." Philippians 1:27 "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Day and night you must strive that you may attain to the significances of the heavenly Kingdom, perceive the signs of Divinity, acquire certainty of knowledge and realize that this world has a Creator, a Vivifier, a Provider, an Architect -- knowing this through proofs and evidences and not through susceptibilities, nay, rather, through decisive arguments and real vision -- that is to say, visualizing it as clearly as the outer eye beholds the sun. In this way may you behold the presence of God and attain to the knowledge of the holy, divine Manifestations."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 227)

God is sufficient unto us.

345. God is sufficient unto us. He will suffice us in all our actions and dealings if we allow Him: God is sufficient unto us the prophets of the religions of God tell us, in not so many words. Trust and reliance on God is a must if we are to believe in a Benevolent Creator who only has our best interests at heart. And God is all knowing and all powerful, which means He is in a position to

come to our aid if need be. So, we should trust and rely on Him if we are going to travel on this pathway to spirituality. We must believe that He will be there for us, even if it doesn't quite look like it at the time: ✡ Judaism: 2 Samuel 22:3 "The God of my rock; in Him will I trust: He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour." Psalms 37:17 "For, the LORD upholdeth the righteous." Psalms 37:23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in His way." Psalms 37:24 "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with His hand." 2 Kings 22:1 "And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul:" 22:2 "And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;" 22:3 "The God of my rock; in Him will I trust: He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence." Tobias 5:19 "For that which the Lord hath given us to live with doth suffice us." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." Wisdom 19:22 "For in all things, O Lord, Thou didst magnify Thy people, and glorify them, neither didst Thou lightly regard them: but didst assist them in every time and place." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 13:5 "For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." 13:6 "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." 2 Corinthians 3:4 "And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:" 3:5 "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;" 3:6 "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." 12:9 "And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee." 1 Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." 2 Timothy 4:18 "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Let God be all-sufficient for thee. Commune intimately with His Spirit, and be thou of the thankful."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 279)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Trust in the Lord, thy God, for He is sufficient unto whosoever trusteth in Him. He, verily, shall protect thee, and in Him shalt thou abide in safety."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 60)

God is there to pick you up when you stumble and assist us.

346. God is there to pick you up when you stumble and assist us when we have need: God is more than just a kind benevolent creator. He is also, our shield and protector when we are in need. He is there, with us, when we slip up or make a mistake. He is there to help us back unto the right path and pick us up and support us, if need be, when things seem to go wrong and we feel we have nowhere to turn. He is our Heavenly Father, and He and His heavenly host are with us, in every direction we choose to travel, giving us assistance, loving us, and trying to help guide us along through this obstacle course we call life. Judaism: Isaiah 41:10 "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." Judith 9:11 "Thou art a God of the afflicted, an Helper of the oppressed, an Upholder of the weak, a Protector of the forlorn, a Saviour of them that are without hope." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Wisdom 19:22 "For in all things, O Lord, Thou didst magnify Thy people, and glorify them, neither didst Thou lightly regard them: but didst assist them in every time and place." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) 1 Esdras "For we had said unto the

king, that the power of the Lord our God should be with them that seek Him, to support them in all ways." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Psalms 37:17 "For, the LORD upholdeth the righteous." Psalms 37:23 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in His way." Psalms 37:24 "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with His hand." David tells us that if a man falls or sins against God, God won't totally abandon him, but will, out of His love and compassion, assist him to do better.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God will assist all those who arise to serve Him."**

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 579)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 54:4 "Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul." Psalms 63:8 "My soul followeth hard after Thee: Thy right hand upholdeth me." Psalms 145:14 "The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down." Psalms 145:15 "The eyes of all wait upon Thee; and Thou givest them their meat in due season." Psalms 145:16 "Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "God will assist Him by the hosts of earth and heaven and those of the Unseen, through His Command which is 'Be' and it is!"**

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 211)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 13:5 "For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." 13:6 "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." 2 Corinthians 1:9 "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:" 2 Corinthians 1:10 "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in Whom we trust that He will yet deliver us;" 6:2 "For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee:" 2 Peter 2:9 "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the**

godly out of temptations," 2 Timothy 4:18 "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh has said that God will assist all those who arise in His service. The more you labour for His Faith, the more He will aid and bless you."

(Compilations, The Compilation of Compilations vol II, p. 221)

The sun, the moon, the stars and the heavens shake.

347. The sun, the moon, the stars and the heavens shake. Christianity: Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:" Matthew 24:30 "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:" This is one of the major scenes that many devout Christians see in their minds eye when talking about the return of Jesus Christ. Mark 13:24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light," Mark 13:25 "And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken." Mark 13:26 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." I ask you, is this expectation a real event we should seriously be looking for or is it a series subtle truths that are hidden in words that should never have been taken literally in the first place? We are warned by Jesus, just a few verses earlier, that there is more to his words then meets the eye on first inspection. Christ tells us to be cautious when we read his prophecy: Matthew 24:15 ".....whoso readeth, let him understand." "Let him understand," as in there is more to the meaning of these words then is seen on the surface.

CHRISTIANITY: John 8:43 "Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word." We cannot easily hear and

understand the hidden meaning clothed in the word of God on first inspection. It takes some thought and some effort to understand on our part. It isn't passive learning that requires nothing on our part, it requires work; but we must ask ourselves, does God do this? Does He really put more meaning into his words then is seen at face value? There are whole areas in the scriptures where Jesus outlines the meaning of his verses to his disciples so they can understand the hidden nature of the meaning of his words: Matthew 13:10 "And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?" Matthew 13:11 "He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." Matthew 13:13 "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." Matthew 13:14 "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:" Christ spoke with hidden meaning because of us. We are the ones who couldn't perceive the true nature of what God was trying to tell us and Jesus had to spoon feed us like a mother feeds an infant. Only, the infants are us. We were the spiritual infants in need of tender loving care that Jesus could only feed with small careful bits of the truth that was hidden in the word to keep from over feeding us. We couldn't take any more of the truth so it was hidden in the scriptures: John 16:12 "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." It is because of us that the messengers of God sugar coat the truth; so we don't get more then we can bear at one time. So, the next question is, is this one of those incidents, the sun going dark and the moon not giving her light, where Jesus used a little subterfuge to hide the true meaning of his message so the process of sieving between those people worthy of hearing God's new message could be separated from the unworthy who are so steeped in the cares of this mortal world that they could not see the truth if it was hand delivered to them by Christ himself: Matthew 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know verily that the purpose underlying all these symbolic terms and abstruse allusions, which emanate from the Revealers of God's holy Cause, hath been to test and prove the peoples of the world; that thereby the earth of the pure and illuminated hearts may be known from the perishable and barren soil."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 48)

There are some instances in the Old Testament of the Bible where similar references are made to a darkened sun, a moon that doesn't shine and the heavens being shaken, that should be looked at. In the thirteenth chapter of Isaiah we find references made about the fall of Babylon and the heavenly signs that will accompany the destruction of Babylon. Judaism: Isaiah 13:5 "They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land." Isaiah 13:6 "Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty." Isaiah 13:7 "Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:" Isaiah 13:8 "And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames." Isaiah 13:9 "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." Isaiah 13:10 "For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine." Isaiah 13:11 "And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible." Isaiah 13:13 "Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger." Isaiah 13:19 "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah." In this prophecy from Isaiah, Isaiah foretells of the destruction of Babylon and the signs that would accompany the event. Isaiah foretells of the stars not giving their light

and the sun being darkened, while the moon doesn't shine and the heavens are shaken and the earth moved out of her place.

History doesn't record a time back in the days of the fall of Babylon that was known to the Chaldeans, when the stars didn't give light, the sun was darkened, the moon didn't shine, the heavens shook and the earth was moved out of its place; and I don't think it was an oversight. For one thing we wouldn't be here if the earth had moved out of its place. All life on the planet would have been extinguished in the global wide devastation that would have occurred on the planet by the earth shifting out of its orbit and axis. Another thing to think about, the sun, the moon and the stars are still all shining up in the sky even though the event foretold by Isaiah, the fall of the Chaldeans in Babylon, occurred centuries ago; and there is no known history that was recorded anywhere, of a time, when all that was up in the heavens went pitch black, which is exactly what would have happened if the sun, the moon and the stars all stopped shining all at once. There would have been pandemonium all across the face of the planet; it would have been recorded down in history by many cultures and civilizations. A day and time like that would have been remembered the whole world over, and yet nothing is mentioned in any of the various histories from around the world about such a dreadful day.

There are no recordings of such a day because the prophecy of Isaiah was filled with symbolisms about events that were to occur symbolically about the fall of Babylon. The prophecy of the darkening of the sun, the moon and the stars was never meant to be taken literally. It was symbols of events that were to occur that were left open to the interpretation of the people to pick between the people that had seeing eyes and those that don't.

These prophecies from Jesus about the signs that will occur in the heavens preceding his return are also, like Isaiah's prophecies, symbolic of events that will occur that have deeper meaning. We will have to study these prophecies in depth to find the true meaning of the words, but one thing that we can count on, it won't be literal events in the physical heavens that alert us to Jesus Christ's second coming it will be what's hidden in the word.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "And now, concerning His words – 'The sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give light, and the stars shall fall from heaven.' By the terms 'sun' and 'moon,' mentioned in the writings of the Prophets of God, is not meant solely the sun and moon of the visible universe. Nay rather, manifold are the meanings they have intended for these terms. In every instance they have attached to them a particular significance. Thus, by the 'sun' in one sense is meant those Suns of Truth Who rise from the dayspring of ancient glory, and fill the world with a liberal effusion of grace from on high. These Suns of Truth are the universal Manifestations of God in the worlds of His attributes and names." .**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 33)

"The term 'suns' hath many a time been applied in the writings of the 'immaculate Souls' unto the Prophets of God, those luminous Emblems of Detachment. Among those writings are the following words recorded in the 'Prayer of Nudbih': 'Whither are gone the resplendent Suns? Whereunto have departed those shining Moons and sparkling Stars?' Thus, it hath become evident that the terms 'sun,' 'moon,' and 'stars' primarily signify the Prophets of God, the saints, and their companions, those Luminaries, the light of Whose knowledge hath shed illumination upon the worlds of the visible and the invisible." .

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 35)

"That the term 'sun' hath been applied to the leaders of religion is due to their lofty position, their fame, and renown. Such are the universally recognized divines of every age, who speak with authority, and whose fame is securely established. If they be in the likeness of the Sun of Truth, they will surely be accounted as the most exalted of all luminaries; otherwise, they are to be recognized as the focal centres of hellish fire. Even as He saith: 'Verily, the sun and the moon are both condemned to the torment of infernal fire.'" .

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 37)

(See signs in the earth and in the heavens for more information)

Superstitions and fables are what is left after the spirit has gone out of the religion.

348. Superstitions and fables are what is left after the spirit has gone out of the religion and all that's left is the outer semblance of religion, nearly devoid of spiritual life: ✡ **Judaism: Enoch 2. "Woe to them who pervert the words of uprightness, And transgress the eternal law, And transform themselves into what they were not [into sinners]: They shall be trodden under foot upon the earth." Enoch "I know that sinners will alter and pervert the words of righteousness in many ways, and will speak wicked words, and lie, and practice great deceits, and write books concerning their words. and..... pervert everything that the Lord hath spoken through the mouth of the prophets, even the things that shall be." Enoch 3. "Therefore they shall be wanting in doctrine and wisdom, And they shall perish thereby together." "Therefore they shall be wanting in doctrine," true doctrine, for that which they follow is false doctrine or superstition. (Apocrypha)**

In the world of being the practice of religion ages with time and acts and rites that once had purpose and meaning give way to beliefs and actions that have lost their spiritual connection and have just become outward forms of what once held truth. Many people will still hold onto this decaying form of belief even though the true spiritual light has dimmed and almost gone out of the religion. It is this outward form, this lifeless body, of rituals that remain that many people hold onto that causes most people to fail to see the new spiritual light when a new revelation from God dawns on the horizon. The people are so attached to this dead body that superstition instead of truth rules their behavior and they turn on God's chosen ones and try and destroy this new light. This happened with the Jews in early Christianity, ✝ **Christianity: Acts 25:18 "Against whom when the accusers stood up,**

they brought none accusation of such things as I supposed:" Acts 25:19 "But had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive." This also happened with advent of the Bahá'í Faith:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Many religious leaders have grown to think that the importance of religion lies mainly in the adherence to a collection of certain dogmas and the practice of rites and ceremonies! Those whose souls they profess to cure are taught to believe likewise, and these cling tenaciously to the outward forms, confusing them with the inward truth."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 143)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;" 4:2 "Speaking lies in hypocrisy;" 1 Timothy 4:7 "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness." 1 Timothy 4:8 "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." 2 Timothy 4:3 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;" 4:4 "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The beginnings of all great religions were pure; but priests, taking possession of the minds of the people, filled them with dogmas and superstitions, so that religion became gradually corrupt."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 125)

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 3:20 "Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD." Jeremiah 3:21 "A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping and supplications of the children of Israel: for**

they have perverted their way, and they have forgotten the LORD their God." Jeremiah 23:35 "Ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God." Isaiah 66:3 "He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations." Isaiah 66:4 "I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "By the word religion I do not mean the present dogmatic and theological superstitions which are in the hands of the people. By religion I mean the world of celestial attributes. After the moral aspect of humanity becomes readjusted, then the greatest unity will be realized;"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 176)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 1:15 "Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance." 1 Peter 1:16 "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." 1 Peter 1:17 "For he received from God the Father honour and glory." Titus 1:13 "This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; 1:14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth." Titus 1:15 "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." Titus 1:16 "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." Titus 2:1 "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:" 2 Corinthians 4:1 "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;" 4:2 "But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness,**

nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." 4:5 "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake." 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

This failing of the masses to perceive the new light of God's new message to humanity, while still holding unto the old out dated forms of religion, is also what happened with the advent of the Bahá'í Faith. The people were still holding unto superstitions they had learned from birth, and were blinded by the intensity of the new shining light of God's new message to mankind. They were not able to recognize God's new message, filled with God's Holy Spirit, because they were still chained to the old out dated doctrines and dogma they had learned from their parents and clergy; which did not resemble the light of this fresh new religion, which did not contain the old worn out rituals and traditions they were used to. What they had was mostly old worn out superstitions that had once been a religion, but was now just a faded shadow of what had once been a brilliant spiritual force in the life of mankind.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In these gatherings where we have met and spoken together you have all become acquainted with the principles of this dispensation, and with the reality of facts. Unto you it has been given to know these things, but there are many still unenlightened and submerged in superstition. They have heard but little of this great and glorious Cause, and the knowledge they have is for the most part based only on hearsay. Alas, poor souls, the knowledge they have is not based on truth, the foundation of their belief is not the teaching of Bahá'u'lláh! There is, assuredly, a certain amount of truth in what they have been told, but for the most part their information has been inaccurate."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 167)

Symbolism in the bible.

349. Symbolism in the bible. In the Bahá'í Faith we learn that God's messengers tend to use a lot of symbolic, spiritual language to get God's message across to mankind. This is particularly true in the holy scriptures of the bible. Christianity: 1 Corinthians 2:7 "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom." Colossians 1:26 "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations." Ephesians 3:9 "The mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things." 1 Corinthians For, 2:4 "my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit." John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Mark 4:11 "And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables." So, John 5:45 "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust." John 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." John 5:47 "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" The Jewish people did not understand the symbolic nature of the writings of Moses and the other prophets of the Old Testament and therefore were not prepared to comprehend the spiritual nature of Christ's teachings; though they had warning that Gods prophets use a symbolic language, in the Old Testament: Judaism: Hosea 12:9 "And I that am the LORD thy God," 12:10 "I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions and used similitude's, by the ministry of the prophets." Deuteronomy 29:4 "Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day."

BAHA'I FAITH: "They also said that the scepter of Christ would be of iron -- that is to say, He should wield a sword. When His Holiness Christ appeared, he did possess a sword but it was the sword of his tongue with which he separated the false from the true; but the Jews were blind to the spiritual significance and symbolism of the prophetic words."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 74)

CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Ephesians 6:17 "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"

One should always be thoughtful when reading the holy bible for it is full of spiritual symbolisms that can easily elude the unsuspecting reader even while he or she is searching. Christianity: 1 Corinthians 2:7 "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:" The wisdom of God is clearly hidden in the writings of the bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. Judaism: Deuteronomy 10:16 "Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked." Deuteronomy 30:6 "And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live." Jeremiah 4:4 "Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest My fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings." Psalms 135:17 "They have ears, but they hear not." Foreskin of the heart is, of course, entirely symbolic as anyone who has ever had gross anatomy in medical school, as I have had, or anyone who has ever looked up anatomy in a medical journal can tell you. The bible uses much symbolic imagery like this to try and get through to mankind and reach us stiff necked people. The difficulty is trying to discern what is symbolic imagery and what is not. The Bahá'í Faith tells us that some of these quotes in the bible are straight forward Christianity: Matthew 2:2 "Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." By all accounts there was a physical sign that appeared in the physical heavens and some scientists of today may even be able to tell you what it was. But what they don't tell you is that

there was also a spiritual star in the spiritual heavens that also appeared, Christianity: Mark 1:2 "As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Judaism: Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts." What we find, in the writings of God, is that even though some of the writings of God have a very literal interpretation; these are the writings of God, a spiritual entity. Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." So, if we care to look there is almost always a spiritual side to the writings if we look for it.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh explained that the perplexity of our world leaders, their inability to master the problems of the era or tell whence these problems came or why they came or whither they lead or what they mean, is ultimately due to a moral and spiritual cause. It springs from a misunderstanding of the Gospel, and a misinterpretation of the symbolism and the abstruse terms in which many of its prophecies, promises, warnings and pronouncements are veiled."

(George Townshend, The Heart of the Gospel, p. 2)

JUDAISM: Proverbs 25:2 "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter." This one phrase says it all. It is the Glory of God to conceal things in the word, but it is up to us to search out the matter. Christianity: John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Mark 4:23 "If any man have ears to hear, let him hear." The words Christ is speaking to us are spiritual; he states that plainly. It is up to us to try and seek out the words hidden message or the honor of kings to search out the matter. Romans 7:14 "For we know that the law is spiritual:" Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Galatians 5:25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Luke 15:24 "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry." Here we can see that the living can be considered dead in the bible even though they may be living and breathing. Luke 15:32 "It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found." Those people who were not conscious of the true spirit in the bible were considered dead to Jesus, hence he was lost and now he is found. Matthew 8:22 "But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead." I don't see how anyone could take this statement from Christ literally. People can't really believe that the dead physically rose up out of their graves to bury the dead. 1 Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." It seems clear from this statement that anyone living for the pleasures of this world, though living and breathing, is symbolically considered dead in the writings of God. Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die:" Paul couldn't be any clearer, if we just live after the pleasures of this life God considers us to be dead onto Him. It seems clear that Paul and Jesus were using symbology to describe the spiritual state of the souls of those people that were listening to them; with the dead being those people who have ears to hear but don't comprehend and the living being the people who were attracted to the spiritual content of the word. Luke 8:8 "He (Jesus) cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." Luke 9:45 "But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not:" It seems pretty clear from the writings of Christ and Paul that the word of God was clothed in the raiment of symbology and mystery and the true meaning of the word was hidden from the multitude of the people in Christ's time; but if the Holy Word of God was hidden in allegories then, when did the spiritual nature of God's Holy Word change? The answer to this question is, it didn't of course. The words of Christ, Moses and the other prophets are just as filled with allusions and mysteries today as they were during the times of Christ, Muhammad and the other prophets. If not, even maybe, a little more perplexing today during man's all-encompassing drive towards materialism and physical domination of all material things this worldly life has to offer.

If this isn't conclusive enough proof of the non-literal nature of the word of God: Moses, Christ, John and Matthew tell us:  Christianity: John 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." 1:18 "No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." 1 John 4:11 "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us." "Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit."

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 3:7 "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons." 3:8 "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden." 3:9 "And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" 3:10 "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." 3:11 "And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" 3:17 "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;" 3:18 "Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;" 3:19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." 3:20 "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living." 3:21 "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them." I don't know of a God that anyone can hide from: Jeremiah 23:23 "Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?" 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? Saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? Saith the LORD."**

 **JUDAISM: Genesis 4:4 "And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:" 4:5 "But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell." 4:6 "And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?" 4:7 "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him." 4:8 "And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him." 4:9 "And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" 4:10 "And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." 4:11 "And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;" 4:12 "When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth." 4:13 "And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear." 4:14 "Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me." 4:15 "And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him." Exodus 33:11 "And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend." 33:12 "And Moses said unto The LORD, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight." 33:13 "Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people." 33:14 "And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." 33:15 "And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." 33:16 "For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that**

are upon the face of the earth." 33:17 "And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name." 33:18 "And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory." 33:19 "And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy." 33:20 "And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." 33:21 "And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:" 33:22 "And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:" 33:23 "And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen." But it said earlier in Exodus: Exodus 33:11 "And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend," and the Lord also talked to Adam and Cain; Surly the symbolic nature of Moses' words can be seen here in all of this, as well as Jesus stating: ✝ Christianity: John 1:18 "No man hath seen God at any time!" These statements must be symbolic, because these statements can't all be literally true because they say things that are just the opposite of one another; they can't all be literally correct.

✝ **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 10:1 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;" 10:3 "And did all eat the same spiritual meat;" 10:4 "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." Here we see that even words and statements that one would think could only be taken as literal in the bible, manna from heaven, could also have a spiritual, symbolic meaning as-well; one just needs to look for it.**

If this isn't conclusive enough proof of the non-literal nature of the word of God: Matthew tells us about the dead coming to life after the crucifixion of Christ. ✝ Christianity: Matthew 27:50 "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost." Matthew 27:51 "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the

top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;" Matthew 27:52 "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose," Matthew 27:53 "And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." Matthew is, of course, describing the dead coming out of the graves of their bodies and, upon witnessing the crucifixion of Christ, becoming believers, thus obtaining spiritual life, which they then solidified by going forth and witnessing their faith to others. For, had the physically dead physically climbed up out of their graves and went into the cities witnessing to their still living relatives, it would have caused such a commotion that Roman historians would have, at the very least, mentioned it to their posterity, if not made it a history changing, world changing event for all to remember; and who at this point would have denied Christ. Christianity: 1 Corinthians 2:10 "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Corinthians 2:11 "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Behold, all the people are imprisoned within the tomb of self, and lie buried beneath the nethermost depths of worldly desire! Wert thou to attain to but a dewdrop of the crystal waters of divine knowledge, thou wouldst readily realize that true life is not the life of the flesh but the life of the spirit."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 120)

CHRISTIANITY: John 3:12 "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" John 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me."
John 5:47 "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" Clearly Christ warned the people that they were not understanding him, thus he spoke to them much of the time in parables: Matthew 13:3 "And he spake many things unto them in parables, Matthew 13:10 "And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?" Matthew 13:13 "Therefore

speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." Matthew 13:14 "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:" Matthew 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 3:2 "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." 2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:" 2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4:18 "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 8:12 "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." John 6:38 "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." One can see how the people living at that time, listening to Christ's spiritual statements would have reacted: John 6:42 "And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?" The people listening to Jesus back then are responding much the same way as many people living in this day and time respond; they look for the complete literal meaning of the word and miss out on the essences of the spirit within the words.**

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." God is spirit and if we wish to come to Him and understand what He is doing here we have to think on the spiritual level and try to approach Him with spiritual minds and enraptured hearts. John 4:23 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit**

and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." God wants us to worship Him in the spirit. So, doesn't it stand to reason that He would talk to us through His chosen ones in spiritual words? John 6:51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." This is also completely spiritual words for those with ears to hear with. It's obvious that Jesus was not physically made of bread he was physically a man and he was alluding to the word of God coming into their lives and feeding their spirits. John 8:43 "Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word." Christ is clearly telling man that people cannot understand what he is saying because they are not hearing the spirit enshrouded in his words. When Christ is talking much of what he is saying is hidden from the casual observation and needs to be reflected on. Judaism: Psalms 107:9 "For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

BAHA'I FAITH: "His Holiness Christ appeared in order to illumine the world of humanity, to render the earthly world celestial, to make the human kingdom a realm of angels, to unite the hearts, to enkindle the light of love in human souls, so that such souls might become independent, attaining complete unity and fellowship, turning to God, entering into the divine Kingdom, receiving the bounties and bestowals of God and partaking of the manna from heaven."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 104)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 2:6 "Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to naught:" 1 Corinthians 2:7 "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:" 1 Corinthians 2:8 "Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." When Christ spoke to man it was through the hidden wisdom of the word of God, which has hidden mysteries concealed in the words or hidden symbolisms concealed in the words. Had people been able to understand this they

would have accepted Christ as the son of God and followed his teachings and not crucified him. Paul further reiterates this in 1 Corinthians 2:13 thru 14 saying: 1 Corinthians 2:13 "We speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." Paul is clearly saying that they speak not in the words of man, but in words that are inspired by the Holy Ghost which teaches spiritual things clothed in spiritual words. 1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." It takes people with spiritual insight to see into the mystery within God's holy word. 1 Corinthians 10:1 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;" 10:2 "And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;" 1 Corinthians 10:3 "And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." Here Paul again reiterates that the words of the bible, even those found in the Old Testament, can have a spiritual, symbolic meaning, even when the words of the book seem to be straight forward and completely literal; there is a spiritual insight to be found in the words.

Peter, I think, states it best when he states that the spiritual inspiration and insight came to the revealers of the Holy Scriptures by the movement of the Holy Ghost in their lives. Christianity: 2 Peter 1:20 "no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." 2 Peter 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." The prophets of the bible spoke in words that they were moved by the Holy Ghost to reveal; spiritual words which require spiritual eyes to see and spiritual ears to hear. Judaism: Deuteronomy 29:4 "Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Such are the mysteries of the Word of God, which have been unveiled and made manifest, that haply thou mayest

apprehend the morning light of divine guidance, mayest quench, by the power of reliance and renunciation, the lamp of idle fancy, of vain imaginings, of hesitation, and doubt, and mayest kindle, in the inmost chamber of thine heart, the newborn light of divine knowledge and certitude."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 48)

CHRISTIANITY: 2 Corinthians 3:5 "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;" 2 Corinthians 3:6 "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." The letter, the word by itself without spiritual reflection, killeth. The letter by itself, without spiritual reflection, blinds the soul of man leaving him standing in the darkness of ignorance and superstition holding onto the literal meaning of the word without hope of spiritual guidance.

JUDAISM: Hosea 12:9 "And I that am the LORD thy God," 12:10 "I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions and used similitude's (analogies), by the ministry of the prophets." Christianity: Luke 1:68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people," 1:69 "And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;" 1:70 "As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:" Acts 3:20 "And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:" 3:21 "Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

So, what I can say is this, The Holy Bible has multiple meanings, "multiplied visions," spoken in "similitude's" (analogies), by the holy prophets since the beginning of the world: "God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." What I am trying to say to you is this, just read the stories found in the bible over again, very closely, with an open mind, and see what other interesting facts and questions you can come out of the holy book with. Don't be

blinded into a narrow minded way of thinking, with your thoughts fixed on a certain way of thinking; that men have created with their theological interpretations and beliefs. These men have contrived what they believe over the years and it is their only way of understanding God's Holy Writings, they allow for nothing else: Christianity: Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." Don't let the words of people who may, or may not have been inspired in their understanding, blind you from openly searching and seeking understanding for yourself: 2 Peter 1:21 "For prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," 1:20 "No prophecy of the scripture (therefore) is of any private interpretation (it is open to all)." So, with this one statement Peter tells you: investigate the writings of God for yourself with an open mind. 1 Thessalonians 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know verily that the purpose underlying all these symbolic terms and abstruse allusions, which emanate from the Revealers of God's holy Cause, hath been to test and prove the peoples of the world; that thereby the earth of the pure and illuminated hearts may be known from the perishable and barren soil." (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 49)

"Alas, alas! the world has not discovered the reality of religion hidden beneath the symbolic forms!" (Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 187)

We are to teach the word of God.

350. We are to teach the word of God to those around us and remember to teach the word of God to our children: Teaching the faith of God to others is one of the most fundamental teachings found in the writings of God. If you are part of a religious faith you will find in your writings that teaching of the holy word is incumbent upon

all.  Judaism: Ezra "All those that know the law of thy God; and those that know it not thou shalt teach." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Esdras 1) Deuteronomy 4:9 "Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;" Deuteronomy 4:10 "Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather Me the people together, and I will make them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children." Deuteronomy 5:31 "But as for thee, stand thou here by Me, and I will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which thou shalt teach them, that they may do them in the land which I give them to possess it." Deuteronomy 6:6 "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:" Deuteronomy 6:7 "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 11:18 "Therefore shall ye lay up these My words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes." Deuteronomy 11:19 "And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whoso ariseth among you to teach the Cause of his Lord, let him, before all else, teach his own self, that his speech may attract the hearts of them that hear him."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 276)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 132:12 "If thy children will keep My covenant and My testimony that I shall teach them, their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore." Proverbs 4:1 "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding." Proverbs 4:2 "For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law." Proverbs 4:3**

“For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.” Proverbs 4:4 “He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.” Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “O ye believers of God! Endeavor ye; so that ye may take hold of every means in the promulgation of the religion of God and the diffusion of the fragrances of God.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 427)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” Matthew 28:20 “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Teach ye the Cause of God, O people of Baha, for God hath prescribed unto every one the duty of proclaiming His Message, and regardeth it as the most meritorious of all deeds.”**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 5:4 “But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.” Hebrews 5:12 “For the time ye ought to be teachers.”**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “If the mother is educated then her children will be well taught. When the mother is wise, then will the children be led into the path of wisdom. If the mother be religious she will show her**

children how they should love God. If the mother is moral she guides her little ones into the ways of uprightness."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 162)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Teach your children the verses revealed from the heaven of majesty and power, so that, in most melodious tones, they may recite the Tablets of the All-Merciful in the alcoves within the Mashriqu'l-Adhkars."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 74)

The Ten Commandments.

351. The Ten Commandments of the Holy Bible are a set of material laws that are so fundamental that they are found pretty much in all of the major religions, but here we deal only with Christianity and the Bahá'í Faith. For a more in depth study, look into The Oneness of Religions for more information: The laws of God are brought to the earth by God's messengers to better the world of mankind and make it easier for men to interact with one another. The Ten Commandments, some of the most fundamental laws found in the bible, are as such material laws. These laws are brought here to help mankind evolve, and to help man develop civilization and to help men to get along one with another.

 **JUDAISM: Exodus 19:25 "So Moses went down unto the people, and spake unto them." Exodus 20:1 "And God spake all these words, saying, 20:2 I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."**

1. Exodus 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

2. Exodus 20:4 “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.” Exodus 20:5 “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”

3. Exodus 20:7 “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.”

4. Exodus 20:8 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” Exodus 20:9 “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:” 20:11 “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

5. Exodus 20:12 “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”

6. Exodus 20:13 “Thou shalt not kill.”

7. Exodus 20:14 “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

8. Exodus 20:15 “Thou shalt not steal.”

9. Exodus 20:16 “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”

10. Exodus 20:17 “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.”

Though these laws are material laws and subject to change with the coming of each new manifestation of God, these laws, The Ten Commandments, are so basic to the development of mankind that these laws are found in all of God's religions.

Exodus 20:2 "I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Commandment one:

Judaism: Exodus 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 4:10 "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O my people,' said He, 'Worship God, ye have none other God beside Him."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 9)

Commandment Two:

Judaism: Exodus 20:4 "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:" Exodus 20:5 "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them (idols), nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God....."

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 8:4 "We know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one." 10:19 "What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?" 10:20 "But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils." An idol is anything which stands between the Lord and yourself, that you place

higher in value then your Lord, and we are not to worship idols. 1 John 5:21 "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."

BAHA'I FAITH: "See ye not this Sun that shineth in refulgent splendour above the All-Glorious Horizon? For how long will ye worship the idols of your evil passions? Forsake your vain imaginings, and turn yourselves unto God, your Everlasting Lord."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 33)

Commandment Three:

Judaism: Exodus 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 6:1 "The name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Speaking against God means to keep far from Him -- to deny Him -- this is the same as cursing Him."

(Bahá'í Faith, Compilations, Baha'i Prayers 9, p. 50)

Commandment Four:

Judaism: Exodus 20:8 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." Exodus 20:9 "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:" Exodus 20:10 "But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:" Exodus 20:11 "For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

Christ changed the law of the Sabbath day when he started healing on the Sabbath day. Christianity: Matthew 12:11 "And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and

lift it out?" Matthew 12:12 "How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days." Mark 2:27 "And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath;" 2:28 "Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath."

Commandment Five:

Judaism: Exodus 20:12 "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee."

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 18:20 "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O My people! Show honour to your parents and pay homage to them. This will cause blessings to descend upon you from the clouds of the bounty of your Lord, the Exalted, the Great."

(Bahá'í Faith, Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 229)

Commandment Six:

Judaism: Exodus 20:13 "Thou shalt not kill."

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 18:20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Ye have been forbidden to commit murder or adultery, or to engage in backbiting or calumny; shun ye, then, what hath been prohibited in the holy Books and Tablets."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 26)

Commandment Seven:

Judaism: Exodus 20:14 "Thou shalt not commit adultery." (do not commit adultery or fornication)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 10:19 "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother." Romans 13:9 "For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Ye have been forbidden to commit murder or adultery, or to engage in backbiting or calumny; shun ye, then, what hath been prohibited in the holy Books and Tablets."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 26)

Commandment Eight:  Judaism: Exodus 20:15 "Thou shalt not steal."

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 18:20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Exile and imprisonment are decreed for the thief, and, on the third offence, place ye a mark upon his brow so that, thus identified, he may not be accepted in the cities of God and His countries."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 35)

Commandment Nine:  Judaism: Exodus 20:16 "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Tell no lies.

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 19:18 "Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness," "Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "According to the direct and sacred command of God we are forbidden to utter slander," "The individual must be educated to such a high degree that he would rather have his throat cut than tell a lie, and would think it easier to be slashed with a sword or pierced with a spear than to utter calumny....."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith, p. 440 and Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 136)

Commandment Ten:  Judaism: Exodus 20:17 "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 13:9 "For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O QUINTESSENCE OF PASSION! Put away all covetousness and seek contentment; for the covetous hath ever been deprived, and the contented hath ever been loved and praised."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

Tests and difficulties (tribulations) come to us from God, (some of them).

352. Some tests and difficulties (tribulations) come to us from God to help us develop and try our soul to see if we measure up. Tests, difficulties and tribulations, come to us from God, or I should say some tests and difficulties, come to us from God.

He does this to help our spirits grow and develop and become less attached to this world. Christianity: 1 Peter 5:10 "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." God is trying to strengthen our resolve and make our spirits more perfect through hardships we face in this life.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Do men think when they say 'We believe' they shall be let alone and not be put to proof?"

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 8)

JUDAISM: Exodus 20:20 "And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not." Deuteronomy 8:2 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no." Deuteronomy 8:16 "Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that He might humble thee, and that He might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;"

As I said, we find, when we read into the Bahá'í writings and the holy scriptures of the bible that some of our tribulations come to us from God trying to help our spirits develop and not become attached so much to this earthly life. Judaism: Proverbs 3:11 "My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:" Proverbs 3:12 "For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." Christianity: Hebrews 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Hebrews 12:7 "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" Hebrews 12:8 "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."

If we put our reliance in God He will help us make it through the hardships and we will grow even stronger and become more spiritual

in the process. Judaism: Isaiah 48:10 "Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction."

BAHA'I FAITH: "We learn that even though God does test us He will not send us difficulties beyond our endurance: Our Heavenly Father will always give us the strength to meet and overcome tests if we turn with all our hearts to Him, and difficulties if they are met in the right spirit only make us rely on God more firmly and completely."

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 417)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

God will not tempt us or test us above our capacity and endurance, we are told this in the Bahá'í writings and we are told this in the Holy Bible. Judaism: Lamentations 3:32 "But though He cause grief, yet will He have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies." Lamentations 3:33 For He doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men." Lamentations 3:34 "To crush under His feet all the prisoners of the earth," Lamentations 3:35 "To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High," Lamentations 3:36 "To subvert a man in His cause, the Lord approveth not." It is not God's goal to destroy us spiritually, it is His desire to free us from these worldly bonds and bring us closer to Him. God tries the hearts of man for our own wellbeing and not because he has the power to rule over us. Judaism: Psalms 7:9 "Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts." Psalms 11:4 "The LORD is in His holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men." Psalms 11:5 "The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence His soul hateth."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Just as the plough furrows the earth deeply, purifying it of weeds and thistles, so suffering and tribulation free man from the petty affairs of this worldly life until he arrives at a state of complete detachment."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 178)

Yes, the Lord tries the hearts and souls of the believers to make us grow and develop and become less attached to this world. He also uses tests and difficulties to spur us on and measure the determination of our efforts in His path. He uses tests to purify the hearts of mankind as a human would use a furnace to purify gold.  **Judaism: Proverbs 17:3 "The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts." Zachariah 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.**

God uses the fire of tribulations to purify our souls the way we use fire to purify gold.  **Christianity: 1 Peter 1:7 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"**  **Judaism: Job 23:10 "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He will find that in reality these tests and difficulties have been the gifts of God to enable him to grow and develop."**

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 70)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 3:13 "Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory." 1 Thessalonians 2:4 "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our**

hearts.” 2 Thessalonians 1:4 “So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “It is clear, then, that tests and trials are, for sanctified souls, but God's bounty and grace, while to the weak, they are a calamity, unexpected and sudden.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 181)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Thessalonians 4:30 “When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;” 2 Thessalonians 4:31 “(For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.” As I said earlier, God tests us but it is not His desire to destroy us, we do that on our own with our own actions. Not all tests come to us from God some tests we bring on ourselves through our own behavior in this life. Say, you become angry and hit someone, is it God’s fault when the police come and arrest you. Tests are like a bounty from God, but to the unprepared soul they are calamity and pain itself.**

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “The divine messengers come to bring joy to this earth, for this is the planet of tribulation and torment and the mission of the great masters is to turn men away from these anxieties and to infuse life with infinite joy.”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 69)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 16:33 “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” Acts 14:22 “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” 2 Corinthians 1:4 “Who comforteth us in all our**

tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." It is God's desire that we be comforted in our hardship, but that is not to say by the comforts of this world. God wants us to use these trials we pass through to become more reliant on Him so that we can come closer to Him.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To him, the calamities were favors, the tribulations were Divine Providence, the chastisement abounding grace; for he was enduring all this on the pathway of God, and seeking to win His good pleasure."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Memorials of the Faithful, p. 96)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Thessalonians 3:3 "That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto." 1 Thessalonians 3:4 "For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know." 1 Thessalonians 3:5 "For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain." 2 Thessalonians 1:5 "Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:" Paul is pretty clear in Thessalonians. God sends tests and tribulations, not only to help us become less attached to this life and come closer to Him, He also sends tests and tribulations to know our faith and see if we are worthy to enter His kingdom when we move on out of this life.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O army of God! When calamity striketh, be ye patient and composed. However afflictive your sufferings may be, stay ye undisturbed, and with perfect confidence in the abounding grace of God, brave ye the tempest of tribulations and fiery ordeals."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 73)

 **JUDAISM: Leviticus 20:20 "And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you." Moses states God's heavenly objective for us quite plainly, God is come to prove us to see if we might be counted among the worthy to receive His heavenly delights or see if we are so attached to this earthly life that we turn our attention only to our own concerns and turn our backs on our fellow brothers and sisters.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know ye that trials and tribulations have, from time immemorial, been the lot of the chosen Ones of God and His beloved, and such of His servants as are detached from all else but Him, they whom neither merchandise nor traffic beguile from the remembrance of the Almighty, they that speak not till He hath spoken, and act according to His commandment. Such is God's method carried into effect of old, and such will it remain in the future. Blessed are the steadfastly enduring, they that are patient under ills and hardships, who lament not over anything that befalleth them, and who tread the path of resignation...."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 129)

Be thankful and show praise and gratitude to our Lord God.

353. Be thankful and show praise and gratitude to our Lord God: Be thankful, and show praise and gratitude to God, at all times and under all conditions. It is such a little thing to do, as we go about our daily chores, taking a second, out of our day, and thanking God for whatsoever you are thankful for. It is not done enough, being thankful unto God. I believe we can't thank God enough, for what He has done for us, and what He is still going to do for us, no matter what your circumstances here in this life are. Be thankful! It is such a small thing to ask and yet it goes such a long, long way for us in this life of ours; and it will have such a profound effect on what our future life is going to be, being thankful unto God.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "And in all this We give thanks to God the Lord of the worlds, and We praise Him under all circumstances."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, pp. 82)

(See praising God and loving God for more information into these topics).

 **JUDAISM: 1 Chronicles 16:4 "Thank and praise the LORD God of Israel:" 1 Chronicles 16:8 "Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people." 1 Chronicles 16:34 "O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever." Daniel 2:23 "I thank Thee, and praise Thee, O thou God of my fathers, Who hast given me wisdom and might." Tobias 12:20 "Give God thanks: for I go up to Him." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Render thanks unto God, the Eternal Truth, exalted be His glory," (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 110) "Render thanks unto God under all conditions." (Bahá'í Faith, The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, pp. 59)**

 **JUDAISM: 2 Ezra 4. 2:37 "Be glad, giving thanks unto Him that hath led you to the heavenly kingdom." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Esdras 2 (Ezra 4)) Ezra 3:11 "And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever." Psalms 100:4 "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "You must thank God that He has bestowed upon you the blessing of life and existence in the human kingdom." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 265) "Therefore we must thank God that He has created for us both material blessings and spiritual bestowals. He has given us material gifts and spiritual graces,**

outer sight to view the lights of the sun and inner vision by which we may perceive the glory of God." (Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith p. 266)

CHRISTIANITY: John 11:41 "And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee." Matthew 11:25 "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." 11:26 "Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight." Luke 2:38 "And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord,"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Thank God I see you spiritual and at rest; I give you this message from God; that you must be turned toward Him. Praise God that you are near Him!" (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 48) "We must always thank God." (Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 76)

CHRISTIANITY: Colossians 1:11 "Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;" 1:12 "Giving thanks unto the Father." Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." 3:17 "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Ephesians 5:17 "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Ephesians 5:18 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;" 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" 5:20 "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father."

BAHA'I FAITH: "We render thanks unto God for that which He hath bestowed upon us of His grace. He it is Who hath caused us to be assured of the truth of His Faith." (Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 58) "Render thanks then unto God, Who hath singled thee out for this grace and Who hath numbered thee with them that are

assured of meeting their Lord." (Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries p. 7)

Theology and dogma.

354. Theology and dogma. As Bahá'ís we, like many other people, understand that theology is the study of the word of God by man. One needs to realize, though, that theology, is created by man and therefore is not infallible. In other words we, as Gods children, have a duty to ourselves to study what the word of God tells us for ourselves otherwise we could be just like those who missed the ministry of Jesus Christ. The people of Jesus' time listened to the theology of the Pharisees who rejected Christ out of ignorance and led the people down the wrong path. Christianity: Matthew 15:14 "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." Man's desire to hold onto theology can have a blinding effect on people who, out of ignorance, reject God's holy word and deny God's holy messengers in favor of a dogma handed down to them by their parents and clergy. This is one of the main reasons why the people of Jesus' time denied him: Christianity: John 5:45 "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust." John 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." John 5:47 "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" This undaunted fixation, some of the highest stars in the heavens of religion (the religious leaders) have, with theology and dogma is the main reason Christ was crucified by the people. Christianity: 1 Corinthians 2:7 "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:" 1 Corinthians 2:8 "Which none of the princes (the leaders and religious leaders) of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." (Jesus Christ)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Jews were expecting the coming of the Messiah, lamenting day and night, saying: 'O God, send to us our

deliverer!' But as they walked in the path of dogmas, rather than reality, when the Messiah appeared they denied him. Had they been investigators of reality, they would not have crucified - but would have recognized him instantly."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 153)

Because of theology and dogma Christ was crucified. It was because of theology and dogma in religion that caused the Báb to suffer martyrdom and Bahá'u'lláh spend a great portion of his life in exile and in prison. The practice of holding on tightly to religious dogma and theology by various religious clergy and parishioners is the reason early Christianity took hundreds of years to become a world religion. Christianity: John 8:43 "Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word." It is the same today as it was back then, Theology is a big stumbling block for the people. 1 Peter 2:8 "And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed." We need to learn to study the word of God for ourselves and come to our own conclusions before the ignorance of people leads us down the wrong path.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Beware lest theology prevent thee from the King of the known, or the world from Him who created and left it. Arise in the name of thy Lord, the Merciful, amidst the assembly of beings, and take the cup of life in the hand of assurance; drink thou therefrom first; then give it to drink to those who advance of the people of (different) religions. Thus hath the Moon of the Bayan shone forth from the horizon of wisdom and evidence. Rend asunder the veils of theology lest they prevent thee from the region of My Name, the Self-existent."

"Remember when the Spirit (Christ) came; he who was the most learned of the doctors of His age gave a sentence against Him in the chief city of His country, while those who caught fish believed in Him; be admonished, then, O people of understanding!"

(Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 98)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 27:1 "When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:" Mark 15:1 "And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Their (the Bahá'ís) sense of unity goes beyond a shared theology. It is expressed in an abiding commitment to a global program for moral, spiritual and social progress that represents many of the finest ideals of civilization."**

"Promoting equality of women and men is a primary goal, as is ending racial and ethnic strife. Encouraging the concept of economic justice for all peoples is another major objective."

"So is ensuring access to good education for all. The community eschews all forms of superstition and sets for its followers the goal of meeting the highest moral standard. World peace and the establishment of a united global commonwealth has been and remains a distinguishing concern."

(Baha'i International Community, 1992, Magazine - The Baha'is)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 6:39 "And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?" The blind, those religious leaders who are so steeped in religious theology that they can't see the light of religious truth for the dogma of the religion, lead the blind, those people who do not study the religious word for themselves, who wait on other people to tell them what they should believe, are both at risk of failing to see God's chosen one for this day; as they failed to see the light of truth in the days of Christ.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The beginnings of all great religions were pure; but priests, taking possession of the minds of the people, filled them with dogmas and superstitions, so that religion became gradually corrupt."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 125)

Both religious leader and follower are positioned to fall into the ditch of utter loss and fail to obtain the mercy of God's wonderful enlightenment for today. One could almost say that without looking into religious word personally and blindly following the theology of others the religious people really don't know what they should believe in: Christianity: John 4:22 "Ye worship ye know not what....." If we don't study the word for ourselves we really don't know what we are worshiping. Solomon tells us we need to be prudent in our quest to study God's word. Judaism: Proverbs 14:15 "The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going." The simple man believes every word he hears, but the prudent and wise man looks into the matter and ascertains the truth for himself. The prudent man wishes to prove for himself what is worthy of worship. Christianity: 1 Thessalonians 5: 21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." Paul states it best right here. Prove all things we believe in for ourselves before we blindly follow what man has put down for us and told us to believe.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This sense of unity goes beyond a shared theology. Individuals from many of these backgrounds have intermarried, for example, something which is promoted in the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith, and or they work together closely in local Bahá'í communities, serving together on its local- and national-level governing institutions. A careful examination of the worldwide Bahá'í community will reveal a surprisingly widespread and yet singularly committed body of people who are consciously creating a global culture, one that emphasizes peace, justice and sustainable development, and puts no group in a position of superiority."**

(Baha'i International Community, 2001 Aug 31, Statement to World Conference against Racism)

 **JUDAISM: Ecclesiastes 1:13 "And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." Ecclesiastes 7:25 "I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things:" It is, as I stated earlier, our need if not our obligation to seek out the reason of things. Solomon tells us that we should use wisdom to seek out the meaning of things; that we should try to understand everything done under the sun. This includes our trying to understand the writings of God, and yet many leave this gathering of spiritual knowledge to others: Deuteronomy 29:4 "Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day."**  **Christianity: Mark 4:12 "That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "A Bahá'í, through this faith in, this conscious knowledge of, the reality of divine Revelation, can distinguish, for instance, between Christianity, which is the divine message given by Jesus of Nazareth, and the development of Christendom, which is the history of what men did with that message in subsequent centuries, a distinction which has become blurred if not entirely obscured in current Christian theology."**

(The Universal House of Justice, Messages 1963 to 1986, p. 389)

Traditions of man.

355. Traditions of man. One of the main reasons man rejects God's messengers and God's Holy word to mankind is the traditions men hold onto in place of God's true revealed message. We know this because Jesus talked of this and had to deal with the traditions of men during

his life time: Christianity: Mark 7:8 "For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, and many other such like things ye do (dogmas and theologies)." Colossians 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Luke 6:39 "And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?" The blind, those religious leaders who are so steeped in religious theology and tradition that they can't see the light of religious truth for the dogma of the religion, lead the blind, those people who do not study the religious word for themselves, who wait on other people to tell them what they should believe, are both at risk of failing to see God's chosen one for this day; as they failed to see the light of truth in the days of Christ.

Traditions associated with Christianity and other religions are the beliefs, interpreted by men, that the words of God have a certain meaning, which may or may not be correct, and that prophecies will be fulfilled only a certain way regardless of the fact that other meanings may be the reality:

BAHA'I FAITH: "People are too easily led by tradition. It is because of this that they are often antagonistic to each other, and dispute with one another."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 27)

CHRISTIANITY: Mark 7:9 "And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." Titus 1:13 "This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; 1:14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The beginnings of all great religions were pure; but priests, taking possession of the minds of the people, filled them with dogmas and superstitions, so that religion became gradually corrupt."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 125)

So, through the traditions and theology of men Jesus Christ was rejected by the Jewish clergy and by in large the Jewish people, because he didn't fit into their traditions; this is also the case for today. Bahá'u'lláh, like Christ, does not necessarily fit into the preconceived notions or traditions of the men of today. He comes to us with God's Holy Word not the preconceived notions that are the ideas of man's creations.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh continually urges man to free himself from the superstitions and traditions of the past and become an investigator of reality, for it will then be seen that God has revealed his light many times in order to illumine mankind in the path of evolution, in various countries and through many different prophets, masters and sages."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 8)

 **JUDAISM: Ecclesiastes 1:13 "And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." Ecclesiastes 7:25 "I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things:**

Solomon tells us that we should use wisdom to seek out the meaning of things, and that we should try to understand everything done under the sun. This includes our trying to understand the writings of God, and yet many leave this gathering of spiritual knowledge to others:  Judaism: Deuteronomy 29:4 "Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day." Ecclesiastes 8:16 "When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:)" 8:17 "Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet

he shall not find it; yea farther; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it." Thus mankind develops theology thinking, with his mind, thinking he knows the true meaning of the word. Christianity: Mark 4:12 "That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them." Mark 7:13 "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

BAHA'I FAITH: "A Bahá'í, through this faith in, this conscious knowledge of, the reality of divine Revelation, can distinguish, for instance, between Christianity, which is the divine message given by Jesus of Nazareth, and the development of Christendom, which is the history of what men did with that message in subsequent centuries, a distinction which has become blurred if not entirely obscured in current Christian theology."

(Bahá'í Faith, The Universal House of Justice, Messages 1963 to 1986, p. 389)

BAHA'I FAITH: "A third standard or criterion is the opinion held by theologians that traditions or prophetic statement and interpretations constitute the basis of human knowing."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 251)

BAHA'I FAITH: "When we consider the third criterion, traditions, upheld by theologians as the avenue and standard of knowledge, we find this source equally unreliable and unworthy of dependence. For religious traditions are the report and record of understanding and interpretation of the Book. By what means has this understanding, this interpretation been reached? By the analysis of human reason. When we read the Book of God the faculty of comprehension by which we form conclusions is reason. Reason is mind. If we are not endowed with perfect reason, how can we comprehend the meanings of the Word of God? Therefore human reason, as already pointed out, is by its

very nature finite and faulty in conclusions. It cannot surround the Reality Itself, the Infinite Word. Inasmuch as the source of traditions and interpretations is human reason, and human reason is faulty, how can we depend upon its findings for real knowledge?"

"Therefore man is not justified in saying: 'I know because I perceive through my senses'; or: 'I know because it is proved through my faculty of reason'; or: 'I know because it is according to tradition and interpretation of the holy book'; or: 'I know because I am inspired.' All human standard of judgment is faulty, finite."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 253)

Tribulations and persecution are the lot for God's prophets and chosen ones.

356. Tribulations and persecution are the lot for God's prophets and chosen ones. Don't think that, when you say I believe, that you won't be put to the test. Tribulations seem to be a common factor in the lives of many of God's chosen ones and the followers of His faith. Judaism: Deuteronomy 8:2 "And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no." Deuteronomy 8:16 "Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;" Christianity: Mark 13:19 "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time." Many people who claim to believe will be put to the test to see if they truly believe:

BAHA'I FAITH: "Do men think when they say 'We believe' they shall be let alone and not be put to proof?"

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 8)

Many people who follow in the path of God's chosen ones suffer affliction at the hands of the people who just don't see the light of God, but feel it's their obligation to punish those that do. Judaism: Psalms 34:19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." Christianity: Matthew 13:21 "tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word," Mark 4:17 "affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake,"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know ye that trials and tribulations have, from time immemorial, been the lot of the chosen Ones of God and His beloved, and such of His servants as are detached from all else but Him, they whom neither merchandise nor traffic beguile from the remembrance of the Almighty, they that speak not till He hath spoken, and act according to His commandment. Such is God's method carried into effect of old, and such will it remain in the future. Blessed are the steadfastly enduring, they that are patient under ills and hardships, who lament not over anything that befalleth them, and who tread the path of resignation...."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 129)

CHRISTIANITY: 2 Timothy 1:8 "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;" 2 Timothy 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 4:5 "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." Philippians 1:29 "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;" Acts 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The first teaching of Bahá'u'lláh is the investigation of reality. Man must seek the reality himself, forsaking imitations and adherence to mere hereditary forms."**

"The Jews were expecting the appearance of the Messiah, looking forward to it with devotion of heart and soul but because they were submerged in imitations they did not believe in His Holiness Jesus Christ when he appeared. Finally they rose against Him even to the extreme of persecution and shedding His blood. Had they investigated reality they would have accepted their promised Messiah."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 238)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 8:34 "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Romans 8:35 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" Romans 8:36 "As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Báb was born in Shiraz, in the month of October, 1819. At the age of twenty-four he heralded the advent of a universal teacher whom God would manifest, and through whom the unity of all nations would be established. The Báb (door or gate) effected a reformation of Islam, opening the way for a broader movement -- for always with earnestness and zeal he cried of one who was to come after him to illumine not only Islam, but the whole world. The young reformer made his declaration in 1844 at Shiraz and afterward at Mecca, where one hundred thousand people had congregated."**

"His teachings met with instant opposition on the part of the orthodox religionists of the day. After two years he was imprisoned and held a prisoner until 1850 when he was shot in the public square of Tabriz."

"But physical torture and death were ineffectual to stop the on-sweep of the reformation inaugurated by the Báb. When, some years later, BAHA'U'LLAH arose as the one who was expected, thousands accepted him and at once came under his banner. BAHA'U'LLAH was not personally related to the Báb, nor had he ever seen him, though he became one of the first disciples of the Báb's teachings."

"Dreadful persecution ensued and more than twenty thousand martyrs joyfully gave up property and life rather than renounce the faith which they recognized as divine truth. At such variance were his teachings with the creed-bound world about him that BAHA'U'LLAH, with his family and followers, was banished to Bagdad, to Constantinople, to Adrianople and finally to the penal colony of Akká in Syria."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 5)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Corinthians 1:3 "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;" 2 Corinthians 1:4 "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." 2 Corinthians 1:5 "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ." 2 Corinthians 1:6 "And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation." 2 Corinthians 1:7 "And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh endured ordeals and hardships sixty years. There was no persecution, vicissitude or suffering He did not experience at the hand of His enemies and oppressors. All the days of His life were passed in difficulty and tribulation -- at one time in prison, another in exile, sometimes in chains. He willingly endured these difficulties for the unity of mankind, praying that the world of humanity**

might realize the radiance of God, the oneness of humankind become a reality, strife and warfare cease and peace and tranquillity be realized by all. In prison He hoisted the banner of human solidarity, proclaiming universal peace, writing to the kings and rulers of nations, summoning them to international unity and counseling arbitration. His life was a vortex of persecution and difficulty; yet catastrophes, extreme ordeals and vicissitudes did not hinder the accomplishment of His work and mission. Nay, on the contrary, His power became greater and greater, His efficiency and influence spread and increased until His glorious light shone throughout the Orient, love and unity were established, and the differing religions found a center of contact and reconciliation."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 145)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Corinthians 7:4 "Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation." 1 Thessalonians 3:3 "No man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto." 1 Thessalonians 3:4 "For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know." 1 Thessalonians 3:5 "For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain." 2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In Persia the early believers in this revelation met with the utmost opposition, persecution and cruelty at the hands of their fellow countrymen, but they faced all calamities and ordeals with sublime heroism, firmness and patience. Their baptism was in their own blood, for many thousands of them perished as martyrs; while thousands more were beaten, imprisoned, stripped of their possessions, driven from their homes or otherwise ill-treated. For sixty years or more anyone in Persia who dared to own allegiance to the Báb or Bahá'u'lláh did so at the risk of his property, his freedom and even his life. Yet this determined and ferocious opposition could not**

more check the progress of the Movement than a cloud of dust could keep the sun from rising."

(Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 252)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Thessalonians 1:6 "And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:" Colossians 1:23 "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;" Colossians 1:24 "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake," Revelations 1:9 "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Thou hast known how grievously the Prophets of God, His Messengers and Chosen Ones, have been afflicted. Meditate a while on the motive and reason which have been responsible for such a persecution. At no time, in no Dispensation, have the Prophets of God escaped the blasphemy of their enemies, the cruelty of their oppressors, the denunciation of the learned of their age, who appeared in the guise of uprightness and piety. Day and night they passed through such agonies as none can ever measure, except the knowledge of the one true God, exalted be His glory."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 56)

Trinity.

357. Trinity The holy trinity is the belief that three are one. That is to say Jesus is considered to be God, the son of God and the holy ghost, three in one. Christianity: Matthew 2:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach

all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." In this case Christ would be considered the word if we were to take this statement literally, but these three bear record in heaven not on earth, which argues for the point that this statement is symbolic and not to be taken literally. This statement does not say that God was on the earth as part of one of the three it states that the father is in heaven, in fact Christ states numerous times that God, his father, is in heaven not on the earth and Moses is pretty clear in his declaration that God is not to be considered a man: Judaism: Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man," Nor does Christ ever claim that he is God on this earth, in fact, Paul tells us that Jesus Christ was a man: Christianity: Acts 2:22 "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you." Jesus was a man not God in reality on this earth, and we know as Moses tells us that God is not a man "God is not a man," So, if Christ is a man and God is far above the boundaries and limitations of a mere physical human body than Christ couldn't be God incarnate on this earth, in fact, Christ claims, as I stated earlier, that God is in heaven not on this earth; and he doesn't just say this once he states this numerous times over and over again.

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Glorify your Father which is in heaven not on earth. Matthew 5:45 "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Again the Father, God, is to be found in heaven. Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Matthew states that God, in heaven, is perfect. In the Bahá'í Writings it is also stated that God is perfect or God is pure perfection but the world is a place of imperfection:

BAHA'I FAITH: "God is pure perfection, and creatures are but imperfections. For God to descend into the conditions of existence

would be the greatest of imperfections; on the contrary, His manifestation, His appearance, His rising are like the reflection of the sun in a clear, pure, polished mirror."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 113)

Perfection does not enter imperfection otherwise it is not perfection, for pure perfection cannot become imperfection. Christianity: Matthew 6:9 "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." "Our Father which art in heaven." Again Christ states that his Father, our Father, is in heaven. Christ didn't say pray to me on this earth, he tells us to pray to our Father who is in heaven. Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." My father, who is in heaven, do His will and you will enter into heaven. Matthew 10:32 "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Christ does not say he will confess himself to his self he states he will confess for us before his Father who is in heaven. Matthew 10:33 "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 11:25 "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." Matthew 12:50 "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Again, if we do the will of his Father who is in heaven Christ will consider us to be members of his spiritual family. Matthew 18:10 "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." For the angels of the little ones to always behold the face of God in heaven, God would have to be in heaven where the angels are for the angels to always behold Him.

BAHA'I FAITH: "God is almighty, but His greatness cannot be brought within the grasp of human limitation. We cannot limit God to a boundary. Man is limited, but the world of Divinity is unlimited.

Prescribing limitation to God is human ignorance. God is the Ancient, the Almighty; His attributes are infinite."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 274)

Unlimited is unlimited and God is unlimited. Limits come from the world of man, it's all we know. We can't even imagine what unlimited is because we can't really imagine existence without limits or boundaries. A thing, or an entity, that is without limits or without boundaries, cannot be contained within boundaries or it is not unlimited. Christianity: Matthew 23: 9 "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." Christ clearly makes distinction here by stating that no one currently on the earth is worthy of the title of father, and only God who is in heaven should be called Father. Matthew 24: 36 "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Shoghi Effendi teaches that the Bahá'í Trinity, God, the Holy Spirit and the Prophet, is like the Sun, the ray and the mirror. The mirror never becomes the sun, or the ray the mirror, or the sun the ray."

(Marzieh Gail, Arches of the Years, p. 315)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 19:17 "And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." Here Jesus doesn't even consider himself worthy of mention in relationship to the true reality of God and states that only God is good. Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Mark 10:18 "And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God." Mark 11:25 "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." Mark 11:26 "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Thirteen times Jesus states that his Father is not on this earth, but in

heaven, and that isn't all the times found in the Gospels, but thirteen times should get the message across that Christ was trying to tell us that (God is in heaven and not on the earth). Mark 13:32 "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." Jesus tells us that he doesn't know the day and hour of the end, but that only God, The Father, in heaven knows, which is a way of showing us that he is not God, nor is he God on this earth, because he doesn't know the things God knows and if he was he would know these things. What needs to be understood is that though Jesus Christ was not God physically incarnated on this earth he was the reflection of God on this earth so if you looked at him you saw the reflection of God:

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 14:9 "Jesus saith unto him, he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;" John 14:10 "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." John 14:11 "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me:" John 14:12 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." As I said Christ was the reflection of God on this earth like the sun being reflected in a mirror, but God wasn't physically incarnated on this earth in the form of Christ, God was reflected in the personage of Christ in his attributes and actions. If it wasn't so why did Christ say I go unto my Father John 16:5 "But now I go my way to Him that sent me;" because the Father would already be on the earth, and Christ wouldn't have the need to go unto the Father. Colossians 1:15 "Who is (Jesus) the image of the invisible God," Paul states it plainly, Jesus is the image of God the reflection of God for man. Luke 10: 21 "In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight." Here Jesus is thanking God, not drawing attention to his self or thanking himself, but thanking God who is in heaven. Luke 18:19 "And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God." Again Jesus makes the clear distinction**

that he and God are two separate entities not the same being. John 6:29 "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." Christ states that he is not God on earth, but was sent by God. Mark 6:38 "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." Jesus clearly states that he is not doing his own will, but the will of God who sent him which again means God and Jesus are not physically the same person. Mark 6:39 "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day." John 8:28 "Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." Jesus does nothing of himself but as God moves him to speak he speaks the things God teaches him to speak. 2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." Paul clearly states that Christ was the image of God on this earth not God on earth, and definitely not God physically incarnated on the earth. John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Christ says it best here; God is a spirit not a creation of man's imagination. How is the created to imagine its creator? God is much greater then man, much vaster then the physical constraints of a mere physical body with human limitations.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "the Perfect Man is in the condition of a clear mirror in which the Sun of Reality becomes visible and manifest with all its qualities and perfections. So the Reality of Christ was a clear and polished mirror of the greatest purity and fineness. The Sun of Reality, the Essence of Divinity, reflected itself in this mirror and manifested its light and heat in it; but from the exaltation of its holiness, and the heaven of its sanctity, the Sun did not descend to dwell and abide in the mirror. No, it continues to subsist in its exaltation and sublimity, while appearing and becoming manifest in the mirror in beauty and perfection.**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 112)

CHRISTIANITY: 2 Corinthians 3:16 "Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away." 2 Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." 2 Corinthians 3:18 "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Lastly the perfect man, the Prophet, is one who is transfigured, one who has the purity and clearness of a perfect mirror -- one who reflects the Sun of Truth. Of such a one -- of such a Prophet and Messenger -- we can say that the Light of Divinity with the heavenly Perfections dwells in him."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 23)

Finally John tells us: Christianity: 1 John 4:12 "No man hath seen God at any time." John states it best I think. No man, not John, not any of the other disciples, nor anyone else for that matter, no one has seen God at any time. When you looked at Christ you were looking at the image of God not God on this earth. Colossians 1:15 "Who is (Jesus) the image of the invisible God,"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'í writings emphasize that the 'divinity attributed to so great a Being and the complete incarnation of the names and attributes of God in so exalted a Person should, under no circumstances, be misconceived or misinterpreted ... that invisible yet rational God ... however much we extol the divinity of His Manifestations on earth, can in no wise incarnate His infinite, His unknowable, His incorruptible and all-embracing Reality in ... a mortal being.'"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Memorials of the Faithful, p. 34)

Trust in God!

358. Trust in God! One of the main statutes we find in the religions of God is that we must put our Trust in God if we are to spiritually progress in this existence: ✵Bahá'í Faith: "Place thy trust in God, and commit thine affairs unto Him,"

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 114)

The messengers of God tell us that trust in God is a must for our deliverance from the harsh realities of this life, and if we are to truly achieve salvation and progress in this world and in the next world. How can our spirit grow and our soul develop if we don't trust in our creator to do what is best for us? And God wants us to place our trust in Him, and to have faith in Him always unto all eternity. ✵Bahá'í Faith: "If anyone revile you, or trouble touch you, in the path of God, be patient, and put your trust in Him Who heareth, Who seeth."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 24)

Without trust in God we are like a rudderless boat adrift on the sea of life, surrounded by doubt, not knowing in what direction we are going or how we will get there. Without God, we have no true guidance we can definitely count on, to show us the way. ✡ Judaism: 2 Samuel 22:3 "The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence." Psalms 7:1 "O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:" Psalms 16:1 "Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust." Psalms 31:1 "In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in Thy righteousness." Psalms 37:3 "Trust in the LORD, and do good;" Psalms 71:1 "In Thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion." Psalms 118:8 "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man." Psalms 118:9 "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes." Psalms 141:8 "But mine eyes are unto Thee, O GOD the Lord: in Thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Trust in the Lord, thy God, for He is sufficient unto whosoever trusteth in Him. He, verily, shall protect thee, and in Him shalt thou abide in safety."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 60)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:6 "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 16:20 "He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he." Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." Isaiah 12:2 "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation." Isaiah 26:4 "Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Put your whole trust and confidence in God, Who hath created you, and seek ye His help in all your affairs. Succor cometh from Him alone. He succoreth whom He will with the hosts of the heavens and of the earth."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 251)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 12:21 "And in His name shall the Gentiles trust." 2 Corinthians 1:9 "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:" 2 Corinthians 1:10 "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;" 1 Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;" 6:19 "Laying up in store for themselves a good**

foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Place thy trust in God, and commit thine affairs unto Him, and enter then the Most Great Prison, that thou mayest hear what no ear hath ever heard, and gaze on that which no eye hath ever seen."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 114)

Trustworthiness: do what you say you are going to do.

359. Trustworthiness: do what you say you are going to do. Trustworthiness is a key requirement in this world if mankind is going to advance any kind of civilization that is more than a step above brute force. We need to be able to rely on one another if we are going to accomplish anything. Trustworthiness is a key factor for advancement of human affairs beyond the most basic human interactions, and we find that this is, in fact, reflected in the religions of God: Judaism: Deuteronomy 23:23 "That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform;" Numbers 32:24 "do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth." Christianity: John 10:37 "If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Cling ye to the hem of virtue, and hold fast to the cord of trustworthiness and piety. Concern yourselves with the things that benefit mankind, and not with your corrupt and selfish desires."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 29)

CHRISTIANITY: 1Timothy 2: 2 ".....lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." Titus 2:10 "Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O people of God! Adorn your temples with the adornment of trustworthiness and piety."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 135)

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 2:12 "So speak ye, and so do," James 3:14 "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When we speak let our speech be an outward evidence of the inner light, for we must speak the truth, otherwise we shall not act wisely."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 103)

 **JUDAISM: 1 Chronicles 16:27 "Glory and honour are in his presence; strength and gladness are in his place." Isaiah 43:4 "Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee:" Leviticus 19:11 "Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O people of Baha! Trustworthiness is in truth the best of vestures for your temples and the most glorious crown for your heads. Take ye fast hold of it at the behest of Him Who is the Ordainer, the All-Informed."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 37)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 9:1 "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost," Colossians 3:9 "Lie not one to another....." James 3:14 "Lie not against the truth."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The fourth Taraz concerneth trustworthiness. Verily it is the door of security for all that dwell on earth and a token of glory on the part of the All-Merciful. He who partaketh thereof hath indeed partaken of the treasures of wealth and prosperity. Trustworthiness is the greatest portal leading unto the tranquillity and security of the people. In truth the stability of every affair hath depended and doth depend upon it. All the domains of power, of grandeur and of wealth are illumined by its light."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 37)

The truth will set you free.

360. The truth will set you free, truthfulness. Religion teaches that truth and honesty are a must in any of the affairs of mankind. All progress in this world and the next depend upon honesty as the stepping stone for all interactions with one another in this existence.  **Christianity: John 8:31 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;" John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**  **Judaism: Deuteronomy 23:23 "That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform;" Numbers 32:24 "do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth." Proverbs 8:6 "Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things." Proverbs 8:7 "For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips." Proverbs 8:8 "All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing forward or perverse in them."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "All religions teach that we must do good, that we must be generous, sincere, truthful, law-abiding, and faithful; all this is reasonable, and logically the only way in which humanity can progress."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 141)

 **JUDAISM: Zechariah 8: 16 "These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:"**  **Christianity: Acts 26:25 ".....speak forth the words of truth and soberness." 2 Corinthians 13:8 "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." Romans 13:13 "Let us walk honestly,"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When we speak let our speech be an outward evidence of the inner light, for we must speak the truth, otherwise we shall not act wisely."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 103)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 4:25 "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another." 1 Timothy 2:1 "I exhort therefore, lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." 1 Timothy 2:7 "Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity." 1 John 2:5 "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be discerning, then, and speak ye the truth, the very truth, if ye claim to be honest and high-minded."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 258)

UNITY!

361. UNITY! This may be a small word but its implications are enormous. Nothing lasting can be done in this world without unity. Unity is one of the most important concepts in the world today and until we achieve it no lasting peace is

possible in the human world: Unity and universal brotherhood are some of the main goals of Bahá'ís all around the world, in whatever country they reside, and this concept is also found in the holy writings of the bible if we look for it.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 13)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Do not only say that Unity, Love and Brotherhood are good; you must work for their realization."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 60)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 1:10 "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We work and pray for the unity of mankind, that all the races of the earth may become one race, all the countries one country, and that all hearts may beat as one heart, working together for perfect unity and brotherhood."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 99)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 15:5 "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:" Romans 15:6 "That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Galatians 6:10 "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The seed of reality must be sown again in human hearts in order that a new tree may grow therefrom and new divine fruits refresh the world. By this means the nations and peoples now divergent in religion will be brought into unity, imitations will be forsaken and a universal brotherhood in the reality itself will be established."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 226)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Corinthians 13:11 "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." 1 Peter 2: 17 "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Therefore, the Lord of mankind has caused His holy, divine Manifestations to come into the world. He has revealed His heavenly Books in order to establish spiritual brotherhood and through the power of the Holy Spirit has made it practicable for perfect fraternity to be realized among mankind. And when through the breaths of the Holy Spirit this perfect fraternity and agreement are established amongst men -- this brotherhood and love being spiritual in character, this loving-kindness being heavenly, these constraining bonds being divine -- a unity appears which is indissoluble, unchanging and never subject to transformation."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 391)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Ephesians 4:2 "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;" Ephesians 4:3 "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:4 "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;" Ephesians 4:5 "One Lord, one faith, one baptism," Ephesians 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be in perfect unity. Never become angry with one another. Let your eyes be directed toward the kingdom of truth and not toward the world of creation. Love the creatures for the sake of God and not for themselves. You will never become angry or impatient if you love them for the sake of God. Humanity is not perfect. There are imperfections in every human being, and you will always become unhappy if you look toward the people themselves. But if you look toward God, you will love them and be kind to them, for the world of God is the world of perfection and complete mercy."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 92)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: Again: "do not only say that Unity, Love and Brotherhood are good; you must work for their realization."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 60)

God is unknowable to mankind.

362. God is unknowable to mankind, His station is far above anything we can understand or comprehend. God is unknowable to mankind the writings of the Bahá'í Faith tell us. How can the finite understand the infinite or the painting understand the painter who paints it?

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "How can he who is but a creation of Thy will claim to know what is with Thee, or to conceive Thy nature?"**

"Praise, immeasurable praise be to Thee! I swear by Thy glory! My inner and outer tongue, openly and secretly, testify that Thou hast been exalted above the reach and ken of Thy creatures, above the utterance of Thy servants, above the testimonies of Thy dear ones and Thy chosen ones, and the apprehension of Thy Prophets and of Thy Messengers."

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 55)

The Holy writings of the bible also tell us that God is unknowable, unsearchable and far beyond anything human mind can comprehend or conceive.

CHRISTIANITY: Romans 11:33 "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!"

BAHA'I FAITH: "That which we imagine, is not the Reality of God; He, the Unknowable, the Unthinkable, is far beyond the highest conception of man."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 24)

JUDAISM: Job 5:8 "I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause:" Job 5:9 "Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvelous things without number:" Job 9:2 "I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?" Job 9:10 "Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number." Exodus 8:10 ".....there is none like unto the LORD our God."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Praise be to God, the All-Possessing, the King of incomparable glory, a praise which is immeasurably above the understanding of all created things, and is exalted beyond the grasp of the minds of men. None else besides Him hath ever been able to sing adequately His praise, nor will any man succeed at any time in describing the full measure of His glory. Who is it that can claim to have attained the heights of His exalted Essence, and what mind can measure the depths of His unfathomable mystery?"

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 60)

JUDAISM: Job 26:13 "By His spirit He hath garnished the heavens; His hand hath formed the crooked serpent." Job 26:14 "Lo, these are parts of His ways: but how little a portion is heard of Him? but the thunder of His power who can understand?" Job 36:26 "Behold, God is great, and we know Him not, neither can the number of His years be searched out." Job 37:5 "God thundereth marvellously with His voice; great things doeth He, which we cannot comprehend."

BAHA'I FAITH: "To man, the Essence of God is incomprehensible."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 66)

JUDAISM: Job 37:23 "The Almighty, we cannot find Him out: He is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: He will not afflict." Psalms 145:3 "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Ponder in thine heart upon the unsearchable wisdom of God, and meditate on its manifold revelations...."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 161)

JUDAISM: Psalms 147:5 "Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite." Isaiah 40:28 "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of His understanding."

BAHA'I FAITH: "All these sacred words show us that man is made in God's image: yet the Essence of God is incomprehensible to the human mind, for the finite understanding cannot be applied to this infinite Mystery. God contains all: He cannot be contained. That which contains is superior to that which is contained. The whole is greater than its parts."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 23)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Colossians 2:2 "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;"**  **Judaism: Ecclesiastes 3:11 ".....no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To every discerning and illuminated heart it is evident that God, the unknowable Essence, the Divine Being, is immensely exalted beyond every human attribute, such as corporeal existence, ascent and descent, egress and regress. Far be it from His glory that human tongue should adequately recount His praise, or that human heart comprehend His fathomless mystery. He is, and hath ever been, veiled in the ancient eternity of His Essence, and will remain in His Reality everlastingly hidden from the sight of men. 'No vision taketh in Him, but He taketh in all vision; He is the Subtile, the All-Perceiving.'"**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 46)

Most of the messengers are unlettered or have not learned their knowledge in a school.

363. Most of the messengers are unlettered or have not learned their knowledge in a school. God's manifestations for the most part seem to be unlettered and have no formal education in a school and yet out of them comes the wisdom and knowledge of the ages. This seems to be one of the mysteries of the holy connection God has with His manifestations to demonstrate, unto man, that their knowledge does in fact come from Him and is not part of some education they received by the ways of man.  **Christianity: John 7:14 "Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and**

taught.” John 7:15 “And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?” John 7:16 “Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me.”

 **BABI RELIGION: “Mulla Ali announced fearlessly the manifestation of the Báb, the Gate whose advent they were eagerly awaiting. ‘His proof,’ he declared, ‘is His Word; His testimony, none other than the testimony with which Islam seeks to vindicate its truth. From the pen of this unschooled Hashimite Youth of Persia there have streamed, within the space of forty-eight hours, as great a number of verses, of prayers, of homilies, and scientific treatises, as would equal in volume the whole of the Qur'án, which it took Muhammad, the Prophet of God, twenty-three years to reveal!’”**

(Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 90)

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “Consider this wronged One (Bahá’u’lláh). Though the clearest proofs attest the truth of His Cause; though the prophecies He, in an unmistakable language, hath made have been fulfilled; though, in spite of His not being accounted among the learned, His being unschooled and inexperienced in the disputations current among the divines, He hath rained upon men the showers of His manifold and Divinely-inspired knowledge; yet, behold how this generation hath rejected His authority, and rebelled against Him! He hath, during the greater part of His life, been sore-tried in the clutches of His enemies. His sufferings have now reached their culmination in this afflictive Prison, into which His oppressors have so unjustly thrown Him.”**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 57)

Upright character.

364. Upright, we as God’s children are supposed to possess an upright character if we wish to spiritually progress in this

life: Bahá'í Faith: "Lay not aside the fear of God, and be thou of them that act uprightly."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 232)

Uprightness is like righteousness and having a good character all in one. Uprightness is honorable and morally sound and upstanding, scrupulous and truthfulness and many other good things, but you can see why having an upright character is a good positive influence on a developing spirit in this world today.

BAHA'I FAITH: "In the estimation of the people of Baha man's glory lieth in his knowledge, his upright conduct, his praiseworthy character, his wisdom."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 67)

JUDAISM: Proverbs 11:20 "They that are of a forward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are His delight." Tobias 4:5 "My son, be mindful of the Lord our God all thy days, and let not thy will be set to sin, or to transgress His commandments: do uprightly all thy life long, and follow not the ways of unrighteousness." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) Isaiah 26:7 "The way of the just is uprightness: thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The sword of a virtuous character and upright conduct is sharper than blades of steel."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 29)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 3:7 "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is (upright), righteous even as He is righteous." Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just,

whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in (upright) honour preferring one another;"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In this Revelation the hosts which can render it victorious are the hosts of praiseworthy deeds and upright character."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 26)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whoso ariseth, in this Day, to aid Our Cause, and summoneth to his assistance the hosts of a praiseworthy character and upright conduct, the influence flowing from such an action will, most certainly, be diffused throughout the whole world."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah)

Vanity, a vain nature is spiritually crippling.

365. Vanity, the pure in heart abstain from a vain nature: The religious writings of God all tell us pretty much the same thing when it comes to having a vain nature. Vanity, like pride, is bad for us, when it comes to our true spiritual development, and something that needs to be avoided, for our spiritual health, if we wish to travel on this pathway that God has laid out for us.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Delight not yourselves in the things of the world and its vain ornaments, neither set your hopes on them...." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 127)**

"Witness how they have entangled themselves with their idle fancies and vain imaginations. By My life! They are themselves the victims of what their own hearts have devised, and yet they perceive it not. Vain and profitless is the talk of their lips, and yet they understand not."

"..Let your reliance be on the remembrance of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Great"

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 204)

 **JUDAISM: Job 15:31 "Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: for vanity shall be his recompense." Job 35:13 "Surely God will not hear vanity, neither will the Almighty regard it." Psalms 12:2 "They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak." Psalms 12:3 "The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:" Psalms 94:9 "He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?" Psalms 94:10 "He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know?" Psalms 94:11 "The LORD knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity." Psalms 119:37 "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way." Isaiah 5:18 "Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity and sin as it were with a cart rope: That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it! Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The pride and vanity of certain of the peoples of the world have made havoc of true understanding, and laid waste the home of justice and of equity."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 76)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 3:20 "And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain." 1 Corinthians 3:21 "Therefore let no man glory in men." Galatians 5:25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Galatians 5:26 "Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." Galatians 6:3 "For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself." Galatians 6:4 "But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." Galatians 6:5 "For every man shall bear his own burden." Ephesians 4:17 "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Deliver your souls, O people, from the bondage of self, and purify them from all attachment to anything besides Me. Remembrance of Me cleanseth all things from defilement, could ye but perceive it. Say: Were all created things to be entirely divested of the veil of worldly vanity and desire, the Hand of God would in this Day clothe them, one and all, with the robe 'He doeth whatsoever He willeth in the kingdom of creation,' that thereby the sign of His sovereignty might be manifested in all things. Exalted then be He, the Sovereign Lord of all, the Almighty, the Supreme Protector, the All-Glorious, the Most Powerful."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 294)

Our life is like a vapor or a mirage here today gone tomorrow.

366. Our life is like a vapor or a mirage in this world, here today and gone tomorrow. Our life here in this world is like a vapor, short and filled with tests and hardships, and then it's over with. We should hold no real value to this earth and this earthly life; the bible tells us this and the Bahá'í Faith tells us this. Christianity: James 4:14 "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." The world and this life are

like a mirage in the desert it appears to be pleasing to the eye and something to long for, but when we consider the next world and the life to come after this, this world is like a dream that we will wake up from and find that nothing of substance comes with us into the light of day. Judaism: Wisdom 1. "Life is short and tedious, and in the death of a man there is no remedy: neither was there any man known to have returned from the grave." "For we are born at all adventure: and we shall be hereafter as though we had never been: for the breath in our nostrils is as smoke, and a little spark in the moving of our heart:" "Which being extinguished, our body shall be turned into ashes." "But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them." "For God created man to be immortal, and made him to be an image of his own eternity." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Wisdom) 4 Ezra 2:36 "Flee the shadow of this world, receive the joyfulness of your glory: I testify my Saviour openly." Hosea 13:3 "Therefore they shall be as the morning cloud and as the early dew that passeth away and as the smoke out of the chimney." Here, but for a while, then gone as if it had never existed. Psalms 102:3 "For my days are consumed like smoke."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Verily I say, the world is like the vapor in a desert, which the thirsty dreameth to be water and striveth after it with all his might, until when he cometh unto it, he findeth it to be mere illusion. It may, moreover, be likened unto the lifeless image of the beloved whom the lover hath sought and found, in the end, after long search and to his utmost regret, to be such as cannot 'fatten nor appease his hunger."**

"O My servants! Sorrow not if, in these days and on this earthly plane, things contrary to your wishes have been ordained and manifested by God, for days of blissful joy, of heavenly delight, are assuredly in store for you. Worlds, holy and spiritually glorious, will be unveiled to your eyes. You are destined by Him, in this world and hereafter, to partake of their benefits, to share in their joys, and to obtain a portion of their sustaining grace. To each and every one of them you will, no doubt, attain."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 328)

The body is the vessel a tabernacle for the soul.

367. <u>The body is the vessel a tabernacle for the soul</u>. The human body is like a vessel or a tabernacle for the human soul. <u>Christianity</u>: 1 <u>Thessalonians</u> 4:4 "That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;" 2 <u>Peter</u> 1:13 "Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;" 2 <u>Peter</u> 1:14 "Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath."

Though the human body may suffer from disease and hardship the human soul within remains unaffected and when the physical body of man dies the soul of mankind is unhurt and goes on freed from the mortal coils able to progress onward in the next world.

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "In the time of sleep this body is as though dead; it does not see nor hear, it does not feel, it has no consciousness, no perception: that is to say, the powers of man have become inactive, but the spirit lives and subsists. Nay, its penetration is increased, its flight is higher, and its intelligence is greater. To consider that after the death of the body the spirit perishes, is like imagining that a bird in a cage will be destroyed if the cage is broken, though the bird has nothing to fear from the destruction of the cage. Our body is like the cage, and the spirit is like the bird. We see that without the cage this bird flies in the world of sleep; therefore if the cage becomes broken, the bird will continue and exist: its feelings will be even more powerful, its perceptions greater, and its happiness increased. In truth, from hell it reaches a paradise of delights, because for the thankful birds there is no paradise greater than freedom from the cage. That is why with utmost joy and happiness the martyrs hasten to the plain of sacrifice."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 326)

(See Soul of man not physical for more information).

Virgin birth.

368. Virgin birth: Judaism: Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Christianity: Matthew 1:18 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 1:19 "Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily." Matthew 1:20 "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:22 "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying," 1:23 "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Matthew 1:24 "Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:" Matthew 1:25 "And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Regarding the birth of Jesus Christ. In the light of what Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá have stated concerning this subject it is evident that Jesus came into this world through the direct intervention of the Holy Spirit, and that consequently His birth was quite miraculous. This is an established fact, and the friends need not feel at all surprised, as the belief in the possibility of miracles has never been rejected in the Teachings. Their importance, however, has been minimized."

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 489)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "With regard to your question concerning the Virgin Birth of Jesus; on this point, as on several others, the Bahá'í teachings are in full agreement with the doctrines of the Catholic Church. In the Kitáb-i-Íqán (Book of Certitude) page 56, and in a few other Tablets still unpublished, Bahá'u'lláh confirms, however indirectly, the Catholic conception of the Virgin Birth. Also 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 'Some Answered Questions', Chap. 12, page 73, explicitly states that Christ found existence through the spirit of God which statement necessarily implies, when reviewed in the light of the text, that Jesus was not the son of Joseph."**

(Shoghi Effendi, Directives from the Guardian, p. 40)

Live a life of virtue.

369. Virtue is one of the teachings found in all the religions of God. The religions state that man must live a virtuous life if he wishes to achieve his true spiritual potential in this existence; and virtue is an absolute must for man's progress in the next world: Bahá'í Faith: "By my life! Man's distinction lieth not in ornaments or wealth, but rather in virtuous behaviour and true understanding." (Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 57) "The sword of a virtuous character and upright conduct is sharper than blades of steel." (Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 29) "Virtue is not a matter of thoughts and words. It must find expression in acts." (ZOROASTER, Hymns of Atharvan p. 187)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." 2 Peter 1:1 "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious**

faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:" 2 Peter 1:2 "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord," 2 Peter 1:3 "According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" 2 Peter 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:5 "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;" ✡ **Judaism: Psalms 24:4 "He that hath clean hands, and a pure (virtuous) heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." Psalms 24:5 "He shall receive the blessing from the LORD." Wisdom 8:7 "And if a man love righteousness her labours are virtues: for she teacheth temperance and prudence, justice and fortitude: which are such things, as then can have nothing more profitable in their life." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,)**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the Book of Utterance these exalted words have been written down and recorded: 'Say, O friends! Strive that haply the tribulations suffered by this Wronged One and by you, in the path of God, may not prove to have been in vain. Cling ye to the hem of virtue, and hold fast to the cord of trustworthiness and piety. Concern yourselves with the things that benefit mankind, and not with your corrupt and selfish desires. O ye followers of this Wronged One! Ye are the shepherds of mankind; liberate ye your flocks from the wolves of evil passions and desires, and adorn them with the ornament of the fear of God. This is the firm commandment which hath, at this moment, flowed out from the Pen of Him Who is the Ancient of Days. By the righteousness of God! The sword of a virtuous character and upright conduct is sharper than blades of steel. The voice of the true Faith calleth aloud, at this moment, and saith: O people! Verily, the Day is come, and My Lord hath made Me to shine forth with a light whose splendor hath eclipsed the suns of utterance. Fear ye the Merciful, and be not of them that have gone astray."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 28)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In one of the Tablets these words have been revealed: O people of God! Do not busy yourselves in your own concerns; let your thoughts be fixed upon that which will rehabilitate the fortunes of mankind and sanctify the hearts and souls of men. This can best be achieved through pure and holy deeds, through a virtuous life and a goodly behavior. Valiant acts will ensure the triumph of this Cause, and a saintly character will reinforce its power. Cleave unto righteousness, O people of Baha! This, verily, is the commandment which this wronged One hath given unto you, and the first choice of His unrestrained Will for every one of you."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 93)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Honesty, virtue, wisdom and a saintly character redound to the exaltation of man, while dishonesty, imposture, ignorance and hypocrisy lead to his abasement. By My life! Man's distinction lieth not in ornaments or wealth, but rather in virtuous behaviour and true understanding."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 57)

No vision taketh in Him, but He taketh in all vision.

370. No vision taketh in Him, but He taketh in all vision. He perceives all things, but He is, Himself, unperceivable:  **Bahá'í Faith: "No vision taketh in Him, but He taketh in all vision, and He is the Subtile, the All-Informed!" He is the all-seeing, but is seen of no one and His ways are past finding out unless He decrees otherwise.**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 13)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 94:9 "He that planted the ear, shall He not hear? He that formed the eye, shall He not see?" Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of**

the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Jeremiah 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD." Job 37:23 "The Almighty, we cannot find him out:" Psalms 145:3 "Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable." 2 Maccabees 7:35 "For thou hast not yet escaped the judgment of Almighty God, who seeth all things." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Sirach 39:19 "The works of all flesh are before Him, and nothing can be hid from His eyes." 20 "He seeth from everlasting to everlasting;" (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) Job 9:10 "(God) Which doeth great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number." Job 9:11 "Lo, He goeth by me, and I see Him not: He passeth on also, but I perceive Him not." Job 23:8 "Behold, I go forward, but He is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive Him:" 23:9 "On the left hand, where He doth work, but I cannot behold Him: He hideth Himself on the right hand, that I cannot see Him:" 23:10 "But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 6:3 "But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:" 6:4 "That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:6 "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding," 1 Corinthians 2:7 "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:" Romans 11:33 "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" 11:34 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counselor?" 11:35 "Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?" 11:36 "For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Nothing is, or can ever be, hidden from God." "To every discerning and illuminated heart it is evident that God, the unknowable Essence, the Divine Being, is immensely exalted beyond every human attribute, such as corporeal existence, ascent and descent, egress and regress."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, pp. 8 and 46)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "No vision taketh in Him, but He taketh in all vision; He is the Subtile, the All-Perceiving."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 46)

God watches us and watches over us.

371. God watches us and watches over us, He is our guardian, our shield and our shelter: One of the teachings of the various religions of God is that God is all seeing, all knowing, all informed and all loving. If this is the case, then it only stands to reason that God watches over us and protects us. Judaism: Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Psalms 94:9 "He that planted the ear, shall He not hear? He that formed the eye, shall He not see?" Jeremiah 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD." Jeremiah 31:28 "So will I watch over them.....saith the LORD." Psalms 14:2 "The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men," Psalms 23:4 "I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Psalms 61:3 "For Thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy." Psalms 53:2 "God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God." Psalms 102:19 "For He hath looked down from the height of His sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth;" Baruch 2:9

"The Lord watched over us." Judith "Thou art the God of all power and might, and that there is none other that protecteth the people." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) Christianity: Matthew 6:3 "But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:" 6:4 "That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:6 "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Luke 1:24 "Thus hath the Lord dealt with me..... He looked on me." 1 John 3:20 "God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." Galatians 4:9 "Ye..... are known of God." Galatians 4:10 "Ye (He) observe days, and months and times, and years." 1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time:" 5:7 "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." He watches over you. 2 Corinthians 1:9 "God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us." 2 Corinthians 13:11 "The God of love and peace shall be with you." "and the love of God.....be with you all. Amen." 1 Timothy 6:13 "I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things," Again, this demonstrates that God is watching over us. 2 Timothy 4:18 "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom."

BAHA'I FAITH: "God is the seer, and the eye is the sign of His vision."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 310)

BAHA'I FAITH: "He that giveth up himself wholly to God, God shall, assuredly, be with him; and he that placeth his complete trust in God, God shall, verily, protect him from whatsoever may harm him, and shield him from the wickedness of every evil plotter." (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 233) "Verily, He is the Hearing and the Seeing." (Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 255)

"Upon thee and upon them be the glory of God, the Powerful, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise." (Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 255)

God's messengers come to man to give him warnings.

372. <u>God's messengers come to man to give him warnings of impending peril to our lives and to our souls and not just the call to the righteous</u>: <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Mark</u> 2:16 "And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?" 2:17 "When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

When messengers of God come to this earth, much of that time is spent in warning mankind of the consequences of his own actions here in this life, and the possible outcomes of future events if mankind will not change his worldly ways. This is an important reminder, for us, of just how venerable to the physical influences of this world we truly are.

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Witness how the world is being afflicted with a fresh calamity every day. Its tribulation is continually deepening. From the moment the Suriy-i-Ra'is (Tablet to Ra'is) was revealed until the present day, neither hath the world been tranquillized, nor have the hearts of its peoples been at rest. At one time it hath been agitated by contentions and disputes, at another it hath been convulsed by wars, and fallen a victim to inveterate diseases. Its sickness is approaching the stage of utter hopelessness, in-as-much as the true Physician is debarred from administering the remedy, whilst unskilled practitioners are regarded with favor, and are accorded full freedom to act. ...The dust of sedition hath clouded the hearts of men, and blinded their eyes. Erelong, they will perceive the consequences of what their hands have wrought in the Day of God. Thus warneth you He Who is

the All-Informed, as bidden by One Who is the Most Powerful, the Almighty."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 39)

Warnings from God's manifestations are an important form of enlightenment to us and help us to stay on the right spiritual pathway. In fact, warnings from God are so important to our spiritual development that they are found in all the religions of God. (See Oneness of Religions, for more information)

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 4:23 "Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which He made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee." Deuteronomy 4:24 "For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God." Deuteronomy 4:25 "When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt yourselves, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God, to provoke Him to anger" 4:26 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed." Deuteronomy 4:27 "And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you." Jeremiah 6:10 "To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it." Ezekiel 3:17 "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at My mouth, and give them warning from Me."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Erelong, they will perceive the consequences of what their hands have wrought in the Day of God. Thus warneth you He Who is the All-Informed, as bidden by One Who is the Most Powerful, the Almighty."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 39)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 8:18 "Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have." Luke 11:35 "Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness." 11:36 "If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light." Luke 2:15 "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Rejoice not in the things ye possess; tonight they are yours, tomorrow others will possess them. Thus warneth you He Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Informed."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 138)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 4:14 "I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you." Colossians 1:28 "Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:" 1 Thessalonians 5:14 "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Beware that ye swell not with pride before God, and disdainfully reject His loved ones. Defer ye humbly to the faithful, they that have believed in God and in His signs, whose hearts witness to His unity, whose tongues proclaim His oneness, and who speak not except by His leave. Thus do We exhort you with justice, and warn you with truth, that perchance ye may be awakened."**

"Lay not on any soul a load which ye would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for any one the things ye would not desire for yourselves. This is My best counsel unto you, did ye but observe it."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 128)

Waters of Life.

373. Waters of Life or fountain of life: The waters of life can be open to interpretation, depending on the reader who is reading the quote, but all the religions of God mention the waters in some form that appear to be related to the pouring out of the spiritual life, or spiritual teachings of God onto mankind, which seems to be a means of obtaining eternal life for the soul of man. Judaism: Enoch 96:6 "Woe to you who drink water from every fountain, For suddenly shall ye be consumed and wither away, Because ye have forsaken the fountain of life." (fountain of life or waters of life) Enoch 48:11 "And in that place I saw the fountain of righteousness Which was inexhaustible: And around it were many fountains of wisdom: And all the thirsty drank of them, And were filled with wisdom," 4 Ezra 14:47 "For in them is the spring of understanding, the fountain of wisdom, and the stream of knowledge." Sirach 1:5 "The word of God most high is the fountain of wisdom" Sirach 21:13 "The knowledge of a wise man shall abound like a flood: and his counsel is like a pure fountain of life." (fountain of life or waters of life) (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)

BAHA'I FAITH: "A vast multitude of every class have drunk their fill of the living waters of divine knowledge, and, intoxicated, have hastened with heart and soul to the field of sacrifice in the way of the Beloved."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 112)

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 17:13 "O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake Thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from Me shall be written in the earth because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters." Psalms 36:9 "For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light." Proverbs 13:13 "Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded." Proverbs 13:14 "The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Incline your ears to the sweet melody of this Prisoner. Arise, and lift up your voices, that haply they that are fast asleep may be awakened. Say: O ye who are as dead! The Hand of Divine bounty proffereth unto you the Water of Life. Hasten and drink your fill. Whoso hath been reborn in this Day, shall never die; whoso remaineth dead, shall never live."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 213)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 4:14 "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." Revelation 7:17 "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Revelation 21:6 "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely." 22:1 "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Universal benefits derive from the grace of the Divine religions, for they lead their true followers to sincerity of intent, to high purpose, to purity and spotless honor, to surpassing kindness and compassion, to the keeping of their covenants when they have covenanted, to concern for the rights of others, to liberality, to justice in every aspect of life, to humanity and philanthropy, to valor and to unflagging efforts in the service of mankind. It is religion, to sum up,**

which produces all human virtues, and it is these virtues which are the bright candles of civilization. If a man is not characterized by these excellent qualities, it is certain that he has never attained to so much as a drop out of the fathomless river of the waters of life that flows through the teachings of the Holy Books, nor caught the faintest breath of the fragrant breezes that blow from the gardens of God; for nothing on earth can be demonstrated by words alone, and every level of existence is known by its signs and symbols, and every degree in man's development has its identifying mark."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 98)

The way.

374. The way. The way is one of the names the messengers of God called their teachings when they appear on this earth. ✡ Judaism: Genesis 18:19 "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him." Genesis 24:27 "And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of His mercy and His truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."

BAHA'I FAITH: "We spoke in the language of the Law, at another time in the language of the Truth and the Way;"

(Abdu'l-Baha, A Traveller's Narrative, p. 43)

✡ JUDAISM: Exodus 18:20 "And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do." Exodus 23:20 "Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "I have offered Myself up in the way of God,"**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 52)

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 9:12 "And the LORD said unto me, Arise, get thee down quickly from hence; for thy people which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt have corrupted themselves; they are quickly turned aside out of the way which I commanded them; they have made them a molten image." Deuteronomy 9:16 "And I looked, and, behold, ye had sinned against the LORD your God, and had made you a molten calf: ye had turned aside quickly out of the way which the LORD had commanded you."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We are the Way mentioned in the Book of God, -- exalted and glorified be He."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 112)

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 11:26 "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;" 11:27 "A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:" 11:28 "And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known." Deuteronomy 31:29 "For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This is the Way of God unto all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 44)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 25:8 "Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way." Psalms 25:9 "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way." Psalms 25:12 "What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He, verily, speaketh the truth, and summoneth all mankind to the way of Him Who is the Incomparable, the All-Knowing."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 214)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 27:11 "Teach me thy way, O LORD," Psalms 44:18 "Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from thy way;" Psalms 67:1 "God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us;" Psalms 67:2 "That thy way may be known upon earth,"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Follow ye the Way of the Lord and walk not in the footsteps of them that are sunk in heedlessness. Well is it with the slumberer who is stirred by the Breeze of God and ariseth from amongst the dead, directing his steps towards the Way of the Lord."**

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 13)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 77:13 "Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?" Psalms 85:13 "Righteousness shall go before Him; and shall set us in the way of His steps." Psalms 110:7 "He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head." Psalms 119:37 "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken Thou me in Thy way."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Fear God, and lift not the hand of injustice and oppression to destroy what He hath Himself raised up; nay, walk ye in the way of God, the True One."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 46)

 **JUDAISM: Psalms 128:1 "Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways." Psalms 128:2 "For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee." Psalms 139:23 "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:" Psalms 139:24 "And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "From time immemorial such hath been the way of God amidst His creatures, and to this testify the records of the sacred books."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 49)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 13:6 "Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner." Proverbs 21:16 "The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead." Isaiah 30:21 "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Jeremiah 5:5 "I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the LORD, and the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke, and burst the bonds." Jeremiah 6:16 "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Only when the true seeker finds that attachments to the material are keeping him from his spiritual heritage, will he gladly enter the way."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 83)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 22:16 "And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art**

true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men." Mark 10:51 "And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight." Mark 10:52 "And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "How far have that people strayed from the way of God!"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 117)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 9:56 "For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." 9:57 "And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest." John 14: 6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This is the Way of God unto all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. 97)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 18:25 "This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John." Acts 18:26 "And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "a vast multitude of every class have drunk their fill of the living waters of divine knowledge, and, intoxicated, have**

hastened with heart and soul to the field of sacrifice in the way of the Beloved."

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 112)

Jesus, the only way to get to God?

375. Now, according to the generally perceived belief of the Christian way of thinking; many people are of the notion that most Christians believe that Jesus Christ declares, that he is the (paraphrasing here), One and Only Way to get to God; The Father of all creation; and that is that, no room for error, negotiating or compromise. And so, armed with this, one and only, singular, declaration, found only once, throughout the whole Christian Bible, found solely in the 14th chapter, in the 6th verse of the gospel of St. John; a great, multitude of, both male and female Christian believers; many totally, sincere, devout worshipers, who completely and unquestionably venerate God, as the All Powerful Supreme Being Who solely reigns over all creation; and yet, they still seem to adhere to this strict, unyielding, unwaveringly, assertion, that Jesus Christ, and only Jesus Christ, is the one and only way to get to God, and that you can only get to heaven through Jesus Christ; Which, in essence, pretty much, voids, nullifies and undoes most anything and everything that the other people, around the world, who believe in other messengers of God, besides Christ, say or do. Thereby, making Christians, with this one brazen statement, stringently, declare to the rest of the world that only the followers of Christ, know and adhere to the one and only true religion of God; which means, that by their words, teachings and, all too real actions, many of these, followers of Jesus Christ, completely ignore, dismiss and nullify the belief system of all the rest of all these men,

women and children, throughout the rest of the world; even though, most of these people also claim to believe in, and follow, A Supreme, all Loving, all Encompassing, totally Omnipotent, Omniscient Being, Who is, though, called by many different names and titles; One Who is an overall creator, Who is acutely aware of and over sees and watches over everything in creation, throughout all this entire, vast, unending universe we find ourselves living in. Or, in-other-words, all the rest of these non-Christian groups, religions and faiths, throughout all the other nations, regions and provinces throughout all the rest of this entire world, are disillusioned, idolatrous, paganistic, heathens, that follow false gods, and or believe in what can only be a false deity; and they are all wrong and therefore they are all going to hell when they die.

Well, to most of the rest of the world, the pure arrogance of such a belief on the part of so many followers of Christ, and the way so many Christians speak down to the rest of the world, with condescending remarks, as if they think they know something special that the majority of the rest of the world is just deprived of, makes many believers in the other religions of God, around the world, not really like Christians all that much, in a, we will only tolerate you because of good manners, on our part, or we just really need something from you, so we will pretend to like you. And, the true shame in all of this is that the majority of these very same Christians have totally misunderstood what Jesus Christ was actually alluding to with this one statement, which has to be looked at with some of Christ's other statements found in the New Testament, as-well-as other statements found in the Old Testament, if we really want to get at the true meaning of Christ's words and what he is truly alluding to.

Now don't misunderstand me, I am not saying that all the Christians around the world are like this, but you only have to be on the receiving end of some of these condescending remarks just a few times, if you belong to another faith, to really understand what the rest of the world is really feeling and why. Now, let's really look at what Christ is truly telling us in John and study his words, very closely, if we really want to get to the true reality behind what Christ is really telling us: ✝ Christianity: John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

"I am the way:" The way is one of the names the messengers of God called their teachings, indeed their whole religion, when they appear on this earth. ✡ Judaism: Genesis 18:19 "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way (the teachings) of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him." Genesis 24:27 "And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of His mercy and His truth: I being in the way (in the religion of Abraham)." Exodus 18:17 "Moses hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel. Be thou for the people to God-ward, and thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk." Deuteronomy 11:26 "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day, and a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way." Deuteronomy 31:29 "For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands." Thus "Moses spake in the ears of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were ended." ✝ Christianity: Mark 10:51 "Jesus said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way." Act 9:27 And "Barnabas took him, and brought him

to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord (Jesus Christ) in the way." Luke 20:21 "Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, (thou) teachest the way of God." I think this makes my case pretty well, that the messengers tend to use the term (the way) to signify the message of their teachings and the presents of their religion unto men; but there are also other things that you should really be aware of, when looking at interpretations like these? There are also other ways to look at these words. There are, inevitably, always other meanings and ways to look at the Holy Words of God: ✝ Christianity: "for it is impossible to understand the hidden truths of God which are in His sayings, and the multitude of their meanings." (From the writings of St. John) For, "the Sayings (God's Holy words and teachings) are not intended to be interpreted literally!" (From The Gospel of Thomas) And Hosea tells us: ✡ Judaism: Hosea 12:9 "And I that am the LORD thy God, I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions and used similitude's, by the ministry of the prophets." ✝ Christianity: 2 Peter 1:20 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation (but is open for all)." ✷Bahá'í Faith: "Every knowledge hath seventy meanings, of which one only is known amongst the people; and when the Qá'im shall arise, He shall reveal unto men all that which remaineth.' He also saith: 'We speak one word, and by it we intend one and seventy meanings; each one of these meanings we can explain.'" (Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 254) So, in-other-wards, there are other meanings to the words of God. Now let's, take our time, open up our eyes, clear our vision of obscuring worldly dust, and take a much needed, closer look at some of the other ways we can understand this statement from Jesus Christ, which is found in the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of St. John. Let's see if we can comprehend the context in which this verse is used in The Holy Bible: ✝ Christianity: John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

(definition) The Way a. "A road, path, highway, passage, **thoroughfare**, route from one place to another. **b.** An opening affording passage, a **door or doorway**. **c.** Course of action, the

route through. Synonyms: 1. artery, avenue, path, road, boulevard, highway, street, **door**, access, entrance, course, passage, entry way, **persuasion**." Franklin Dictionary and Thesaurus.

Now, let's look at some of the other ways the words in this verse can be interpreted and understood, and open up our vision to the spiritual side of God:  Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." (For) "the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him."

 **CHRISTIANITY: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God:' 'Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal knowing that ye also have a Master (Who is) in heaven (and) continue in prayer, and watch in thanksgiving, that God (The Father) would open unto us a door (a way) of utterance.' 'And the Word (the door, the way) was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." This, of course, is in reference to the coming of Christ, for Christ is considered to be the word of God. "Remember that Jesus Christ...,the word of God (the door of God), is not bound." This is symbolic, of course, for, in reality, Jesus Christ was only a man, of flesh and blood, sweat and tears; physical in nature. "Then said Jesus unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door," "I am the way (the persuasion, the thoroughfare)." And, "I am the door: (me) by (which) if any man enter in, he shall be saved." "And, a door (way) was opened unto me of the Lord, For a great door and effectual is opened unto me." "And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." "And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power." "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (the door or the way):" "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost." "The gospel, which was given us in Christ Jesus (the word), before the world began, is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:" For "The Lord Jesus appeared unto thee in the way (for he**

is the way), that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost." "Jesus, who is over all, God blessed for evermore, calling unto me, and saying, I am the way, the truth, and the life, but they knew not the way, Thy Word, or that of Thy wisdom." (St Augustine and Acts)

 **CHRISTIANITY: "Jesus saith, I am the way (and) the truth:" "But (if) ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: that the truth of the gospel might continue with you (with) the truth in Christ and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth." "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: the truth is in Jesus."**

"Jesus saith, I am the way, the truth, and the life:" "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:" "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.' So 'When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in (the) glory, of the Word of life, His Son Jesus Christ, holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain, for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." (So Christ is the word, the word is life, therefore JESUS CHRIST the WORD is The LIFE).

(Colossians, Corinthians, Ephesians, Galatians, Thessalonians, John, Romans, Timothy, Luke and Jude 1:5, 1:6, 1:21, 2:5, 2:8, 3:4, 4:1, 4:4, 4:20, 5:21, 6:17, 6:33, 8:12, 10:7, 11:25, 14:7 and 15:8)

As we can clearly see, from just general browsing throughout The King James version bible, every one of these statements that Jesus Christ states about himself, in the fourteenth chapter of John, verse six, is emphatically true, according to what we can see from the many statements found throughout The King James Bible; which, only tends to make me believe that the rest of what Christ has to say in John 14:6 is also true: ✝ Christianity: John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

✝ CHRISTIANITY: "Jesus saith," "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus Christ seems to be telling us that no one can get to God except "by me," or by him. Note, that Christ is not saying, no one can get to God except through him, which could be interpreted as he is the only way to get to God; but, instead he is saying, cometh to God by me, or by him, as in, possibly, we can get to God by following his example, or by imitating his actions, or by following his words, as in, he is a sublime doorway and mouthpiece sent to mankind by God, and if we live by his words and teachings, meaning living our lives according to his way of living and by acting according to his manners of persuasion, which in essence would be, simply doing what he tells us God is telling us to do, and using Christ's own life and actions as the way we should live and behave, then we should be able get to God or get to "the Father," by following Christ's supreme example; Which, would seem to go along with what the rest of the bible seems to be telling us: ✝ Christianity: John 12:7 (Then said Jesus) 12:26 "If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." Matthew 10:24 "The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master (or like his master), and the servant as his lord." 1 John 3:2 "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

All of this seems, to me, to be a fairly straight forward argument. By following the teachings, instructions and actions of the messenger of

God we are, in fact, doing what we are supposed to be doing. And by doing these things we can, in fact, get to God by following the instructions of God's Holy Manifestation; thereby getting to God and heaven by the messenger of God for that day and time. But, you might be saying to yourself, now wait a minute, all of this seems pretty circumstantial and may be made to appear like this in order to make me think this way, when in reality you have been manipulating the words of God? So, let me ask, what other proof do you have for this reasoning? And to this I say, we have other (substantial proofs) and they are found right here in the bible in the Old Testament and in the New Testament and even amongst Christ's very own words and teachings: As Christ tells us in John ✝ "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Or, no man cometh to the Father but by the way of the manifestation; Paul also reminds us of this fact in Romans 5:21. ✝ Christianity: Romans 5:21 "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." "(by Jesus Christ our Lord)." Here Paul tells us we can obtain eternal life, "by Jesus Christ." Now wait a minute, I can hear some people thinking. This tells us that eternal life can be obtained by Jesus Christ; and to this, I say correct. Jesus Christ is also a prophet, manifestation, messenger, so we can get to God and obtain eternal life by him, as the bible tells us, as he educates us on what we must do to obtain eternal life from The Creator; but you might be asking yourself, this tells us by Jesus Christ, so where do you get the way to God being open to us by all these other prophets and manifestations; for Paul tells us: ✝ Christianity: Acts: 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other." And to all of this I say, I will demonstrate this through the wording of the King James Version Bible, of course.

✝ **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Timothy "The gospel, which was given us in Christ Jesus, before the world began, is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:" Here, we find that the gospel was given to Jesus Christ, even "before the world began," which, is also indicated in the writings of Hosea, Ezekiel and Ezra, in The Old Testament of The Holy Bible; through which we are told that the holy message was given to and spoke to man by the holy**

prophets:  Judaism: Hosea 12:9 "And I that am the Lord thy God, I have also spoken by the prophets, (The Holy Manifestations) and I have multiplied visions and used similitude's, by the ministry of the prophets." Ezekiel 38:17 "I (God) have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets." 4 Ezra 6:38 "O Lord, thou spakest from the beginning of the creation," by the mouth of the holy prophets. (Apocrypha, Esdras 2 (Ezra 4)) We also find that Jesus Christ himself also tells us that God also gave His message of the Gospel to the Holy Prophets from the beginning of the world:  Christianity: Luke 1:70 "He (God) spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began:" It's beginning to seem pretty clear now that when God sends His message to mankind, He does it by sending His message to man by way of The Holy Prophets, no matter who they may be at the time. So, there is no one and only way to get to God and heaven in reality. We, as in, all mankind, get to God by way of all the Holy Manifestations of God when He sends them to mankind, and this is clearly indicated in the wording of The Holy Bible.

**  CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 1:10 "Of which salvation the prophets," -- 1:11 "Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them (The Holy Prophets). Peter tells us that Jesus Christ's presents or spirit was to be found in the other prophets, manifestations of God and the Apostle Paul further tells us: 1 Corinthians 10:1 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;" 10:2 "And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;" 10:3 "And did all eat the same spiritual meat;" 10:4 "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." Here Christ is clearly associated with Moses and Moses clearly tells us that he and Christ are like one another:  Judaism: Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me (one like Moses)." 18:18 "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee (like unto Moses), and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him." Jesus and Moses are alike in nature, and the spirit of Christ was in Moses, like his spirit was to be**

found in all of the other manifestations of the Creator, which makes these statements from Christ and Paul true if we look into the symbolisms found within the words.

Looking into this further, Paul for instance tells us: ✝ Christianity: Acts 3:21 "God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." And Jesus further tells us: Luke 1:68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people," Luke 1:69 "And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David;" Luke 1:70 "As He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began:"

And Paul further tells us: ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant," Hebrews 13:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world." Here Paul clearly tells us that Jesus has been suffering at the hand of mankind repeatedly since the foundation of, or the beginning of the world, which clearly demonstrates the oneness of the prophets of God through the process of successive revelations emanating from the one true God. Romans 16:25 "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to My gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began," 16:26 "But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:" 16:27 "To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen." Here we can clearly see it, from the words of Jesus Christ and Paul. God has been sending His message to mankind through the mouths of all His Holy Prophets through successive intervals from the beginning of the world; and that the one and only way to get to God and therefore to heaven, is by going through all of His Holy Manifestations as they appear to mankind throughout the ages. So, therefore, John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," is explained.

Now, as Bahá'ís, we also, emphatically, believe that this statement is true from the bottom of our hearts. But, to clarify, on what all of this really means to mankind in the grand scheme of God's true plan for all of mankind; what needs to be understood is the nature of the condition of the manifestation of God. The manifestation of God has a dual role, one to bring the laws to mankind, those that are temporary that deal with the laws of man that are subject to change with each and every subsequent manifestation, and those laws that are spiritual, eternal, not subject to change, which stay the same from one dispensation to the next; like, love God, be benevolent, have faith, etc… The other role of the manifestation is to enlighten mankind to God, to teach us of His spiritual aspects, to show us how to become more like Him to become essentially spiritual beings. Others may argue that it's not as simple as that, and to this I say OK. But what really needs to be understood here is the dual nature of the manifestation of God bringing the message. In one sense all of the manifestations of God are one and the same. They all bring the same eternal laws from the same one and only God and they all teach of the one and only God. ✝ Christianity: 1 Corinthians 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." 1 Corinthians 15:46 "Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual." 1 Corinthians 15:47 "The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven."

With these three statements Paul introduces us to the concept of progressive revelation and the oneness of all the prophets of God. The first man Adam was made a living soul; and the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. What this is saying to us is that all the prophets are one in essence because God has sent them all with the same purpose, the same over all mission. If one prophet chose to use the name of a prophet before him he speaks the truth bearing, in mind the oneness of the essence of all the prophets of God and their overall mission from God in mind. But if that same messenger chooses to use another name bearing in mind the unique differences of each individual prophetic cycle and over all different needs of mankind, that prophet also speaks the truth.

 **CHRISTIANITY: Revelations 1:11 "I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:" John says a lot to us about the unified nature of the manifestations with this one sentence and if this statement wasn't enough John reiterates on the importance of the essential unity of Christ by stating it again: Revelations 22:13 "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." All of the manifestations of God are one in their being, one in their goals and one in God. They are all the beginning of God's wonderful message and the end of all prophetic cycles. So, no matter what name they are going by at the time, all the manifestations teachings lead us back to the one and only, all powerful God, who is completely and totally involved in the education and development of all mankind to a better form of life; in this world and in the next life. Sirach 36:15 "Give testimony unto those that thou hast possessed from the beginning, and raise up prophets that have been in thy name." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha,) 1 Peter 1:10 "Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:" 1 Peter 1:11 "Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them (The Holy Prophets) did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." Hebrews 13:20 "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant," Hebrews 13:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world."**

Here Paul clearly tells us that Jesus has been suffering at the hand of mankind repeatedly since the foundation of, or the beginning of the world, which clearly demonstrates the oneness of the prophets of God through the process of successive revelations emanating from the one true God.  Christianity: John 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." John 17:24 "for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."

If this isn't enough proof that God has been sending His prophets to mankind throughout history at intervals demonstrating there is an essential oneness to the prophets there is more. If we wish to see

progressive revelation in action we need only look at the early history of John the Baptist, and some of the discourses Jesus had with his disciples about John The Baptist. ✡ Judaism: (Malachi 4:5 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:" 4:6 "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Isaiah 40:3 And, "the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness (Elijah), Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." 40:4 "and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:" 40:5 "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." ✝ Christianity: Luke 1:13 "But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."(John the Baptist) Luke 1:17 "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias (Elijah), to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." John 1:19 "And this is the record of John (John the Baptist), when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?" John 1:21 "And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No." John 1:23 "He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Elias." Matthew 17:10 "And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?" Matthew 17:11 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things." Matthew 17:12 "But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them." Matthew 17:13 "Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist."

When the priests and Levites ask John the Baptist art thou Elias John answered quite truthfully no, John 1:21 "And he saith, I am not." He was not the physical return of the prophet in the bible known as Elias (Elijah). But, he did state that he was the voice of one crying in the wilderness which is what Elias was known to have been. John 1:23

"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness." He also quoted some of the scriptures about Elijah, from Isaiah John 1:23 "Make straight the way of the Lord." (Isaiah 40:3 "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.")

John said no I am not Elias, but the scriptures tell us that John was the spirit and power of the return of Elias Luke 1:17 "he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias." And, when the disciples ask Jesus about the prophecy of the coming of Elias Matthew 17:10 "And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?" Jesus answered them that he had come, Matthew 17:12 "But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not." Matthew 17:13 "Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist." Then they knew he spoke of John the Baptist? But, that is the question isn't it?

John said quite truthfully that he was not Elias, but Jesus said, also quite truthfully, that he was? What needs to be understood here is that this is an example progressive revelation in action. John was not the physical reincarnation of Elias, but he was, as the Holy Scriptures tell us, Luke 1:17 "the spirit and power of Elias" or the same spiritual personage as Elias who had the same spiritual attributes of the first Elijah.

Clearly, God sends his heavenly manifestations to the earth in a series of progressive steps or cycles, with each step leaving mankind with a little bit more information and moving man a little closer to God. Isaiah 40:21 "Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?" 4 Ezra 6:38 "O Lord, thou spakest from the beginning of the creation," by the mouth of the holy prophets. (Apocrypha, Esdras 2 (Ezra 4)) Acts 3:21 "God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Luke 1:68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began, that we should be saved."

Each manifestation (Holy Prophet) comes from God to teach man with the same spirit and the same spiritual authority each time with the only differences being due to the extraneous conditions of the time and the current spiritual conditions of mankind. It is like the sun up in the heavens. It is the same sun but the light reaching the earth may differ on account of differences in the days. Some days may be more cloudy then others, but that doesn't affect the sun. God sends his holy messengers, like the rays of the sun, to mankind, but what His prophet teaches and how His prophet has to act depends on the state and spiritual conditions of mankind and not that of God or His Holy Manifestations.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Manifestations of God are as the heavenly bodies. All have their appointed place and time of ascension, but the Light they give is the same. If one wishes to look for the sun rising, one does not look always at the same point because that point changes with the seasons. When one sees the sun rise further in the north one recognizes it, though it has risen at a different point."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 67)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "These Manifestations of God have each a twofold station. One is the station of pure abstraction and essential unity. In this respect, if thou callest them all by one name, and dost ascribe to them the same attributes, thou hast not erred from the truth. Even as He hath revealed: 'No distinction do We make between any of His Messengers.' For they, one and all, summon the people of the earth to acknowledge the unity of God, and herald unto them the Kawthar of an infinite grace and bounty. They are all invested with the robe of prophethood, and are honored with the mantle of glory. Thus hath Muhammad, the Point of the Qur'án, revealed: 'I am all the Prophets.' Likewise, He saith: 'I am the first Adam, Noah, Moses, and Jesus.'"**

"The other station is the station of distinction, and pertaineth to the world of creation, and to the limitations thereof. In this respect, each

Manifestation of God hath a distinct individuality, a definitely prescribed mission, a predestined revelation, and specially designated limitations. Each one of them is known by a different name, is characterized by a special attribute, fulfils a definite mission, and is entrusted with a particular Revelation. Even as He saith: 'Some of the Apostles We have caused to excel the others. To some God hath spoken, some He hath raised and exalted. And to Jesus, Son of Mary, We gave manifest signs, and We strengthened Him with the Holy Spirit.'"

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, pp. 50, 51 and 52.)

So you see by Jesus saying he is the way, by which to get to God, he is, in reality, affirming the essential oneness of all the prophets of God and for this reason he can say he is the way to get to the father, which is speaking the truth. All the messengers come from the same God and their purpose in coming is the same; to bring the word of God to mankind. So if one of the manifestations of God states he is the way he speaks the, undoubted, truth; and by this same form of reasoning, if all of the manifestations of God say they are the way to God they also speak the, undoubted, truth; for they are all one and the same in the eyes of God and in the eyes of each other.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The term progressive revelation is used to denote the continuous number of prophets, or manifestations of God, that have been sent to the earth as divine educators of mankind. The Reality of the divine Religions is one, because the Reality is one and cannot be two. All the prophets are united in their message, and unshaken. They are like the sun; in different seasons they ascend from different rising points on the horizon. Therefore every ancient prophet gave the glad tidings of the future, and every future has accepted the past." (Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 29)**

"If we deny One of the Manifestations of God, we deny all. To inflict persecution upon One is to persecute the Others. In all degrees of existence each One praises and sanctifies the Others. Each of Them

holds to the solidarity of mankind and promotes the unity of human hearts." (Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 208)

Way of life.

376. Way of life: The way is not just the teachings come down from God to educate mankind. The Way is a way of life, teachings and laws that need to be lived by if we want them to make a difference in our lives, and not just an archaic set of rules that are good only for those who just need something to believe in, in order to live in this harsh world. The way is a way of life that, as I said, needs to be lived; laws and teachings that will not only provide a useful framework to teach man ways to interact with one another, but following these teachings and incorporating them into our lives causes spiritual growth in our souls and development of our civilization in this physical world. Also, living by these teachings leads our true spiritual self to enlightenment and peace of mind knowing that there is something else; A Someone, we can rely on and go to for help when the need arises, someone Who is looking out for us, and not just an empty vacuum that leaves us going nowhere when we die, with our consciousness just withering away into nothingness, or worse yet, our consciousness going on with nothing to look forward to but more empty, meaningless, nothingness laid out for us for an unimaginably dull existence for all time; not a scenario one would look forward to. Fortunately there is something more for us to look forward to, and this is also a teaching that is expressed in the religions of God as well. There is a way, that if we live by these rules, we will have comfort and joy throughout eternity with only more delectation for us to look forward to in the future.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Let all be set free from the multiple identities that were born of passion and desire, and in the oneness of their love for God find a new way of life."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 76)

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 21:8 "Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death." Proverbs 7:2 "Keep my commandments, and live." Proverbs 7:3 "Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart." Proverbs 6:23 "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:" Proverbs 10:17 "He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth." Proverbs 15:10 "Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die." Proverbs 15:24 "The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath." Deuteronomy 11:26 "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;" 11:27 "A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:" 11:28 "And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known." Deuteronomy 11:32 "Observe to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day, (and live.)"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Jesus, then, founded the sacred Law on a basis of moral character and complete spirituality, and for those who believed in Him He delineated a special way of life which constitutes the highest type of action on earth."**

(Abdu'l-fBaha, The Secret of Divine Civilization, p. 82)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 14:5 "Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Matthew 7:13 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Acts 18:25 "This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord." James 1:23 "For if any be a hearer of**

the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:" 1:24 "For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgeteth what manner of man he was." James 1:25 "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Stand ye staunch and strong in the Covenant and, following the precepts of God and the holy Law, suckle your children from their infancy with the milk of a universal education, and rear them so that from their earliest days, within their inmost heart, their very nature, a way of life will be firmly established that will conform to the divine Teachings in all things."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 125)

Don't let wealth or status bias you.

377. Don't let wealth or status bias you: We should not let someone's wealth or someone's lack of wealth effect our judgment in any way, but treat all persons respectfully and equally, regardless of their social position in this life. Judaism: Leviticus 19:15 "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour." Deuteronomy 1:16 "And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him." Deuteronomy 1:17 "Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it." Bahá'í Faith: "The poor could find a refuge and the rich be welcomed on equal terms." (Bahá'í Faith, Ruhiyyih Khanum, The Priceless Pearl, p. 332) Christianity: James 2:1 "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons."

James 2:2 “For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;” James 2:3 “And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:” James 2:4 “Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?” James 2:5 “Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?” James 2:6 “But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?” James 2:7 “Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?”

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “They who are possessed of riches, however, must have the utmost regard for the poor, for great is the honor destined by God for those poor who are steadfast in patience. By My life! There is no honor, except what God may please to bestow, that can compare to this honor. Great is the blessedness awaiting the poor that endure patiently and conceal their sufferings, and well is it with the rich who bestow their riches on the needy and prefer them before themselves.”**

(Bahá’í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 201)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer of the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man.”**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 284)

Wealth, worldly wealth is a mighty barrier between man and God.

378. <u>Wealth, worldly wealth is a mighty barrier between man and God and a test of man's true faith</u>. In the Bahá'í Writings it is stated that wealth is a mighty barrier between God and man. Man tends to get sidetracked concentrating on his riches and tends to leave matters of God on the wayside as he goes through life.

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "O YE THAT PRIDE YOURSELVES ON MORTAL RICHES! Know ye in truth that wealth is a mighty barrier between the seeker and his desire, the lover and his beloved. The rich, but for a few, shall in no wise attain the court of His presence nor enter the city of content and resignation. Well is it then with him, who, being rich, is not hindered by his riches from the eternal kingdom, nor deprived by them of imperishable dominion. By the Most Great Name! The splendor of such a wealthy man shall illuminate the dwellers of heaven even as the sun enlightens the people of the earth!"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

This concept of wealth being a great barrier between God and man is also found in the teaching of the bible: <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Matthew</u> 19:24 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." The thing one really needs to realize here is that the eye of a needle spoken of by Jesus is a doorway found in the city wall of old Jerusalem that existed in the day of Jesus. What one needs to realize here is that it was not impossible for a camel to go through the eye of the needle, it was just hard for a camel to go through the eye of the needle. The bible tells us our worldly wealth is not something we can trust or something that will save us: <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Psalms</u> 49:6 "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;" <u>Psalms</u> 49:7 "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:" <u>Psalms</u> 49:8 "(For the redemption of their soul is

precious, and it ceaseth for ever)" This concept is also found in the Bahá'í Faith:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Soon will your swiftly-passing days be over, and the fame and riches, the comforts, the joys provided by this rubbish-heap, the world, will be gone without a trace."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 3)

 **JUDAISM: Ecclesiastes 5:15 "As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand." Psalms 49:14 "Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling." Psalms 62:10 "If riches increase, set not your heart upon them."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Our vanishing life, will be gone, and we shall pass, empty handed, into the hollow that is dug for those who speak no more; wherefore must we bind our hearts to the manifest Beauty, and cling to the lifeline that faileth never."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 266)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 8:10 "Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold." In the Bahá'í Writings wealth is also considered a great test to man's faith:**  **Judaism: Proverbs 8:19 "My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold;" Proverbs 10:2 "Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death." Proverbs 10:20 "The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth." Proverbs 11:4 "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death." Psalms 37:16 "The little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked."**  **Christianity: Matthew 16:26 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF BEING! Busy not thyself with this world, for with fire We test the gold, and with gold We test Our servants."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 1:7 "The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF MAN! Thou dost wish for gold and I desire thy freedom from it. Thou thinkest thyself rich in its possession, and I recognize thy wealth in thy sanctity therefrom. By My life! This is My knowledge, and that is thy fancy; how can My way accord with thine?"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 6:9 "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." 1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil:"**

Question: what is it all about? This want and seemingly need some people have for amassing great wealth comes down to this:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O Ali! If God guide, through thee, one soul, it is better for thee than all the riches!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of the Divine Plan, p. 11)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is better than all the riches in the world to bring one soul to Him in the eyes of the Creator, and that is, what it all comes down to. God has not said that there are mansions prepared for**

us if we pass our time associating with the rich, but He has said there are many mansions prepared for the servants of the poor, for the poor are very dear to God. The mercies and bounties of God are with them."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 33)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;"

BAHA'I FAITH: "The rich are mostly negligent, inattentive, steeped in worldliness, depending upon their means, whereas the poor are dependent upon God, and their reliance is upon Him, not upon themselves. Therefore, the poor are nearer the threshold of God and His throne."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 33)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 19:23 "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Consider how base a nature it reveals in man that, notwithstanding the favors showered upon him by God, he should lower himself into the animal sphere, be wholly occupied with material needs, attached to this mortal realm, imagining that the greatest happiness is to attain wealth in this world. How purposeless! How debased is such a nature!"

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 185)

CHRISTIANITY: Revelations 3:17 "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:" Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth,

where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: Matthew 6:20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:" Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When a rich man believes and follows the Manifestation of God, it is a proof that his wealth is not an obstacle and does not prevent him from attaining the pathway of salvation. After he has been tested and tried, it will be seen whether his possessions are a hindrance in his religious life."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 216)

Don't become attached to this life and this world.

379. Don't become attached to this life and this world: The religions of God all warn us not to become entangled with the affairs of this world and become ensnared in the abode of worldliness and materialism. This worldly life is a trap that catches the unwary traveler, on the road to spiritual realization, in a web of, glutinous craving and deceit, selfish desire and oppression, distracting him from the pathway leading unto God and heavenly blissfulness; and, in fact, causing harm to our spiritual wellbeing.

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Timothy 2:3 "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." 2 Timothy 2:4 "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." Matthew 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (money) Matthew 6:25 "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" Matthew 6:26 "Behold the fowls of**

the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" Matthew 10:38 "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." Matthew 10:39 "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." Mark 4:19 "And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful." Mark 8:35 "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it." Luke 6:24 "But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation." Luke 8:14 "And that (the holy word) which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." Luke 9:24 "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Colossians 3:2 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." 1 John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." James 4:14 "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Romans 8:38 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, shall be able to separate us from the love of God." Galatians 6:8 "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

 **JUDAISM: Ezra 39. "Flee the shadow of this world, receive the joyfulness of your glory:" (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Esdras 2 (Ezra 4)) 4 Ezra 7:20 "For there be many that perish in this life, because they despise the law of God that is set before them." "For God hath given strait commandment to such as came, what they should do to live, even as they came, and what they should observe to avoid punishment." 4 Ezra 7:59 "For this is the life whereof Moses spake unto the people while he lived, saying, Choose thee life, that thou**

mayest live." Proverbs 15:31 "The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise." Proverbs 13:8 "The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke." Psalms 26:9 "Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: In whose hands is mischief," 31:9 "Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly." 31:10 "For my life is spent with grief," Psalms 63:3 "Because Thy loving-kindness is better than life." Psalms 49:6 "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;" Psalms 49:7 "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:" Psalms 62:10 "If riches increase, set not your heart upon them." Psalms 52:8 "Trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Christ was heavenly, divine and belonged to the world of the Kingdom. He was the embodiment of spiritual knowledge. His intellect was superior to these philosophers, His comprehension deeper, His perception keener, His knowledge more perfect. How is it that He overlooked and denied Himself everything in this world? He attached little importance to this material life, denying Himself rest and composure, accepting trials and voluntarily suffering vicissitudes because He was endowed with spiritual susceptibilities and the power of the Holy Spirit."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 312)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 8:20 "And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If man is bereft of the divine bestowals and if his enjoyment and happiness are restricted to his material inclinations, what distinction or difference is there between the animal and himself? In fact, the animal's happiness is greater, for its wants are fewer and its means of livelihood easier to acquire. Although it is necessary for man to strive for material needs and comforts, his real**

need is the acquisition of the bounties of God. If he is bereft of divine bounties, spiritual susceptibilities and heavenly glad tidings, the life of man in this world has not yielded any worthy fruit. While possessing physical life, he should lay hold of the life spiritual, and together with bodily comforts and happiness, he should enjoy divine pleasures and content. Then is man worthy of the title man; then will he be after the image and likeness of God, for the image of the Merciful consists of the attributes of the heavenly Kingdom."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 335)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Man must sever himself from the influences of the world of matter, from the world of nature and its laws; for the material world is the world of corruption and death. It is the world of evil and darkness, of animalism and ferocity, bloodthirstiness, ambition and avarice, of self-worship, egotism and passion; it is the world of nature."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 451)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know ye that by 'the world' is meant your unawareness of Him Who is your Maker, and your absorption in aught else but Him."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 275)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whatsoever deterreth you, in this Day, from loving God is nothing but the world. Flee it, that ye may be numbered with the blest."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 276)

We are to be charitable with our wealth.

380. <u>We are to be charitable with our wealth</u>: We are told in the Holy Bible that we are to be charitable with that which God has given us and be a friend and benefactor to the poor and needy; and, as a result, it will be a bounty unto our own selves. This teaching is also reflected in the Bahá'í writings and the other religions of God and seems to be, from what I can see, a standard of religion.

 **<u>CHRISTIANITY</u>: 2 <u>Corinthians</u> 9:7 "<u>Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver</u>." God loves those that give of their own free will. 1 <u>Timothy</u> 1:5 "Now the <u>end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned</u>:" 1 <u>Timothy</u> 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" 1 <u>Timothy</u> 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, <u>ready to distribute</u>, willing to communicate;"**

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "Charity is pleasing and praiseworthy in the sight of God and is regarded as a prince among goodly deeds..... Blessed is he who preferreth his brother before himself."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 71)

 **<u>JUDAISM</u>: <u>Psalms</u> 22:9 "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he <u>giveth of his bread to the poor</u>." <u>Proverbs</u> 3:27 "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it." <u>Proverbs</u> 19:17 "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will He pay him again."**

 **<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "We have ere this uttered these sublime words: Let them that bear allegiance to this Wronged One be even as a raining**

cloud in moments of charity and benevolence and as a blazing fire in restraining their base and appetitive natures."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 94)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:42 "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." Luke 3:11 "He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise." 1 Timothy 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Let us have love and more love, a love that melts all opposition, that sweeps away all barriers, that conquers all foes, a love that aboundeth in charity, large-heartedness, tolerance, and noble striving, a love that triumphs over all obstacle, a boundless, an irresistible, sweeping love! Ah me! Each one must be a sign of love, a center of love, a sun of love, a star of love, a palace of love, a mountain of love, a world of love, a universe of love! Hast thou love? Then thy power is irresistible. Hast thou sympathy? Then all the stars will sing thy praise."

(Bahá'í Faith, Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 454)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 13:3 "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." 1 Corinthians 13:4 "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up," Judaism: Deuteronomy 15:7 "If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:" Deuteronomy 15:8 "But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth." Christianity: James 2:14 "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?" 2:15 "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food," 2:16 "And

one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" 2:17 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be ye trustworthy on earth, and withhold not from the poor the things given unto you by God through His grace."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 54)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 3:17 "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer to the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be as a lamp unto them that walk in darkness, a joy to the sorrowful, a sea for the thirsty, a haven for the distressed, an upholder and defender of the victim of oppression. Let integrity and uprightness distinguish all thine acts. Be a home for the stranger, a balm to the suffering, a tower of strength for the fugitive. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring. Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 93)

Thy will be done.

381. Thy will be done. In the writings of the bible and the Bahá'í Faith we are encouraged to let Gods will be done over and above all our wishes and desires. This is one of the spiritual requirements to all men if we wish to truly grow and develop to our greatest spiritual potential. Christianity: Luke 22:42 "Saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done." Judaism: Deuteronomy 5:27 "Go thou near, and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it." Psalms 40:8 "I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Commit thyself to God; give up thy will and choose that of God; abandon thy desire and lay hold on that of God; that thou mayest be a holy, spiritual and heavenly example."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 89)

We must let God's will reign in our lives if we truly wish to see the greatest good come out of our endeavors in the pathway of spiritual perfection in this world and the world to come. Judaism: Psalms 143:10 "Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness." Christianity: Matthew 6:10 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

BAHA'I FAITH: "This is the glorious time of which the Lord Jesus Christ spoke when He told us to pray 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 88)

Through God's sovereign will we can best develop our soul and change the world into a better world. If we were to reflect, how would Christianity have been able to change the world if Jesus had refused

the will of God and not sacrificed himself for the betterment of mankind? Christianity: Matthew 26:42 "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, Thy will be done."

If Jesus had not sacrificed himself demonstrating his complete confidence and reliance upon God Christianity would not have had the power to effect the great changes in the world and in our lives that it has had.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Merge thy will in His pleasure, for We have, at no time, desired anything whatsoever except His Will, and have welcomed each one of His irrevocable decrees. Let thine heart be patient, and be thou not dismayed."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 120)

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 11:2 "And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth." It is God's will for us that we become spiritually alive and immersed in the ocean of His love.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know thou, that I have wafted unto thee all the fragrances of holiness, have fully revealed to thee My word, have perfected through thee My bounty and have desired for thee that which I have desired for My Self, Be then content with My pleasure and thankful unto Me."

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 10:7 "Then said I, Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God." It is God's will that we spiritually excel and become more like Christ and Bahá'u'lláh, but this doesn't happen a lot because our own will prevents it. God is out there with His arms opened wide

waiting for us but we limit the amount of interaction we have with Him.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF BEING! Love Me, that I may love thee. If thou lovest Me not, My love can in no wise reach thee. Know this, O servant."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

It is God's desire that we grow spiritually and choose Him over the love of the world, but He gave us free will to choose that which is good for us or that which is less good. In truth if we surrender our will to His we serve for the betterment of everything: the world, our life, interaction with our fellow man and all things that can make for a better existence in this world and the next.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Aid me, O my Lord, to surrender myself wholly to Thy Will, and to arise and serve Thee, for I cherish this earthly life for no other purpose than to compass the Tabernacle of Thy Revelation and the Seat of Thy Glory. Thou seest me, O my God, detached from all else but Thee, and humble and subservient to Thy Will. Deal with me as it beseemeth Thee, and as it befitteth Thy highness and great glory."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 311)

Wisdom.

382. Wisdom: Wisdom is a functioning of our mind that allows us to see and to distinguish the actions going on in the world around us, in perspective. Wisdom is considered to be good sense when it comes to our reaction to actions that happen around us. Wisdom is considered to be the accumulated learning of our lives that allows us to judge between truth and falsehood, what is proper and what is not. Wisdom allows us to use our function of reasoning to make decisions that will

affect our lives and the lives of those people around us in either a positive or negative way; and wisdom just allows us to see and understand the world around us. Is it any wonder that God holds wisdom in such high regards throughout His religions and calls on people to obtain wisdom that our hearts be not led astray? ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 4:5 "Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it." Deuteronomy 4:6 "Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." Proverbs 3:13 "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." Proverbs 3:14 "For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold." Proverbs 2:10 "When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;" "So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;" 2:3 "Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;" 2:4 "If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;" 2:5 "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God." Job 29:16 "The cause which I knew not I searched out."

✝ CHRISTIANITY: James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 3:13 "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts." Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Colossians 4:5 "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time." 4:6 "Let your speech be alway with grace."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We have caused the rivers of Divine utterance to proceed out of Our throne, that the tender herbs of wisdom and understanding may spring forth from the soil of your hearts."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 42)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "As the body of man needeth a garment to clothe it, so the body of mankind must needs be adorned with the mantle of justice and wisdom." "The believer should use wisdom."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah p. 81 and Kitab-i-Aqdas)

Women shouldn't be silent about God.

383. Women shouldn't be silent about God. There are some that feel that women can't preach God's word because they were told by the Apostle Paul that women are to remain quiet in church: Christianity: 1 Corinthians 14:34 "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." What the people fail to mention when they quote this particular passage is that women were being told to not ask questions of their husbands in church not that they cannot preach the word of God: 1 Corinthians 14:34 "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." 1 Corinthians 14:35 "And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." So you see, it was not permitted for women to ask their husbands questions in church not that they can't minister the word of God. If that were the case that women were not allowed to teach the word of God then why did Jesus Christ allow women to interact with and minister onto him during his days of life on the earth? Matthew 8:14 "And when Jesus was come into Peter's

house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever." Matthew 8:15 "And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them." Mark 1:30 "But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her." Mark 1:31 "And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them." (helped take care of them)

The problem with women teaching the cause of God, in the bible is not from the teachings of Christ but relates back to Paul. He is the one who would have women remain silent and subservient to man and listen to what was being said, and as stated earlier not to ask questions of their husbands during the service nor cause distractions. ✝ Christianity: 1 Timothy 2:11 "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection." 1 Timothy 2:12 "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." But I ask you the question is this really what God wanted? Mark 15:40 "There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome;" Mark 15:41 "(Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem." Jesus Christ allowed women to minister onto him. He traveled with women as well as men and there were even female Apostles that traveled with Him, while he was alive. ✝ Christianity: John 8:31 "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, (which were male and female). If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;"

If women were able to minister and interact with Jesus Christ, the son of God, while he was on this earth and be his disciples, why do men who are not even close to being on the same level as Jesus have a problem with women teaching of God? When Jesus died who was it that first found him? A woman: ✝ Christianity: Matthew 28:1 "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher." 28:2 "And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it." 28:3 "His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 28:4 "And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men." 28:5 "And the angel answered

and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified." 28:6 "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." 28:7 "And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead;"

History tells us that there were women Apostles as well as men Apostles, while Christ was still alive on this earth, and after his death women taught the word of God as well as men taught the word of God. When Christians were being butchered in the Roman arenas, there were women there as well as men. There are even gospels written accredited to women, example the gospel of Mary Magdalene, and there are even women who are considered saints. It was man that tried to hold woman back, telling them to do what their told, or leaving their books out of the gospels or trying to discredit women: Thomas 2:114 "Simon Peter said to Him, 'Let Mary leave us, for women are not worthy of Life.' Jesus said, 'I myself shall lead her in order to make her male, so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every woman who will make herself male will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.'" (The Gospel of Thomas) Mary 9:6) "Levi answered and said to Peter, Peter you have always been hot tempered." Mary 9:7) "Now I see you contending against the woman like the adversaries." Mary 9:8) "But if the Savior made her worthy, who are you indeed to reject her? Surely the Savior knows her very well." Mary 9:9) "That is why He loved her more than us. Rather let us be ashamed and put on the perfect Man, and separate as He commanded us and preach the gospel, not laying down any other rule or other law beyond what the Savior said." Mary 9:10) "And when they heard this they began to go forth to proclaim and to preach." (Gospel of Mary Magdalene)

Women are also credited with quietly bringing the word of God to their children, which eventually opened up the Roman empire than the rest of the known world to Christianity. And I say, if God doesn't seem to have a problem with women doing work for Him why should men. Jesus apparently didn't have a problem with women: "Jesus said, 'I myself shall lead her." There are even two whole books in the bible about women: Ester and Ruth, and one of the judges who saved the Hebrew children from captivity was a woman named Deborah. So I say again, If God doesn't have a problem using women to do His bidding

and helping onto His son why should men, who are not the mouth piece of God, have a problem. Christ's very own actions on this earth during his ministry demonstrates to us that women can be great teachers of the word of God.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Abdu'l-Bahá turned with a look of great joy and said with an impressive gesture: 'The bounty and power of God is limitless for each human soul. Consider what was the quickening power of the Christ when He was on earth. Look at His disciples! They were poor and uncultured men. Out of the rough fisherman He made the great Peter, and out of the poor village girl of Magdala He made one who is a power in all the world today. Many queens have reigned who are remembered by their dates in history, and nothing more is known of them. But Mary the Magdalene is greater than them all. It was she whose love strengthened the disciples when their faith was failing. What she did for the world cannot be measured. See what a divine power was enkindled in her by the power of God!"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 88)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Woman has everywhere been commended for her faithfulness. After the Lord Christ suffered, the disciples wept, and gave way to their grief. They thought that their hopes were shattered, and that the Cause was utterly lost, till Mary Magdalene came to them and strengthened them saying: 'Do you mourn the body of Our Lord or His Spirit? If you mourn His Spirit, you are mistaken, for Jesus lives! His Spirit will never leave us!' Thus through her wisdom and encouragement the Cause of Christ was upheld for all the days to come. Her intuition enabled her to grasp the spiritual fact."**

"Abdu'l-Bahá then added: 'But in the sight of God sex makes no difference. He or she is greatest who is nearest to God."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 104)

Mary 5:1) “But they were grieved. They wept greatly, saying, How shall we go to the Gentiles and preach the gospel of the Kingdom of the Son of Man? If they did not spare Him, how will they spare us?” Mary 5:2) “Then Mary stood up, greeted them all, and said to her brethren, Do not weep and do not grieve nor be irresolute, for His grace will be entirely with you and will protect you.” Mary 5:3) “But rather, let us praise His greatness, for He has prepared us and made us into Men.” Mary 5:4) “When Mary said this, she turned their hearts to the Good, and they began to discuss the words of the Savior.” Mary 5:5) “Peter said to Mary, Sister we know that the Savior loved you more than the rest of woman.” Mary 5:6) “Tell us the words of the Savior which you remember which you know, but we do not, nor have we heard them.” Mary 5:7) “Mary answered and said, What is hidden from you I will proclaim to you.” Mary 34) “Beware that no one lead you astray saying Lo here or lo there! For the Son of Man is within you.” (The Gospel of Mary)

 **BAHA’I FAITH: “O maid-servant of God! It is incumbent upon thee to diffuse the fragrances of God and to be occupied in delivering (teaching) the Cause of God!”**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 285)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Bahá'u'lláh states there must be “equality of man and woman. He has declared that in the estimation of God there is no distinction of sex.” “The one whose heart is most pure, whose deeds and service in the Cause of God are greater and nobler, is most acceptable before the divine threshold -- whether male or female.”**

(Bahá’í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: “Among the teachings of His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh is the equality of women and men. The world of humanity has two wings -- one is women and the other men. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly. Should one wing remain weak, flight is impossible. Not until the world of women becomes equal to the world**

of men in the acquisition of virtues and perfections, can success and prosperity be attained as they ought to be."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 288)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Abdu'l-Bahá smiled and asked: 'What will you say if I prove to you that the woman is the stronger wing?'"

"Abdu'l-Bahá then continued more seriously: 'The woman is indeed of the greater importance to the race. She has the greater burden and the greater work. Look at the vegetable and the animal worlds. The palm which carries the fruit is the tree most prized by the date grower. The Arab knows that for a long journey the mare has the longest wind. For her greater strength and fierceness, the lioness is more feared by the hunter than the lion."

"The mere size of the brain has been proved to be no measure of superiority. The woman has greater moral courage than the man; she has also special gifts which enable her to govern in moments of danger and crisis. If necessary she can become a warrior."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 102)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Upon another occasion 'Abdu'l-Bahá said to a group of friends around him: "Taken in general, women today have a stronger sense of religion than men. The woman's intuition is more correct; she is more receptive and her intelligence is quicker. The day is coming when woman will claim her superiority to man."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 104)

The word of God endures forever.

384. The word of God endures forever: Bahá'í Faith: "Each of the divine religions embodies two kinds of ordinances (laws). The first

is those which concern spiritual susceptibilities, the development of moral principles and the quickening of the conscience of man. These are essential or fundamental, one and the same in all religions, changeless and eternal -- reality not subject to transformation."

"The second kind of ordinances in the divine religions is those which relate to the material affairs of humankind. These are the material or accidental laws which are subject to change in each day of manifestation, according to exigencies of the time." It is this first set of laws and ordinances (dealing with spiritual susceptibilities and moral development) that I wish to talk about. These teachings are spiritual in nature, the same taught in all of God's religions. They are eternal teachings that endure forever, because it is through these words and ordinances that good morals and good conduct are developed and our spiritual self develops and becomes more like our Creator. These words and teachings are the words of God that endure forever, going on from one dispensation to the next, because these teachings form the bases for God's interaction with man and His way of developing man into a heavenly creature.

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

JUDAISM: Psalms 119:160 "Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever." Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever." Christianity: Matthew 5:18 "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Mark 13:31 "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." 1 Peter 1:23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." 1 Peter 1:25 "The word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know that heaven and earth may pass away, but my words shall never pass away. As is clear and evident to thine eminence, these words outwardly mean that the Books of the Gospel

will remain in the hands of people till the end of the world, that their laws shall not be abrogated, that their testimony shall not be abolished, and that all that hath been enjoined, prescribed, or ordained therein shall endure forever."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, p. 17)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Word of God, exalted be His glory, endureth for ever."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 175)

Word made flesh.

385. Word made flesh. John tells us that in the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God. Christianity: John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:2 "The same was in the beginning with God." John also tells us that the word was made flesh and dwelt among us: John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth." This of course is in reference to the coming of Christ for Christ is considered to be the word of God. This is symbolic of course for Christ was a man physical in nature.

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Reality of Christ, Who is the Word of God, with regard to essence, attributes and glory, certainly precedes the creatures. Before appearing in the human form, the Word of God was in the utmost sanctity and glory, existing in perfect beauty and splendor in the height of its magnificence. When through the wisdom of God the Most High it shone from the heights of glory in the world of the body, the Word of God, through this body, became oppressed, so that it fell into the hands of the Jews, and became the captive of the tyrannical and ignorant, and at last was crucified."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 116)

It is by the wording of these passages found in John that some people consider Christ to be God on earth, because John states that God is the word and through Christ the word became flesh, which as I stated earlier is a symbolic statement. It is also through these statements that some people argue for the existence of the holy trinity which is: Christianity: Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" the father, son and spirit. It is this three in one declaration that has some people fighting with one another about who Christ really was and what he is really all about; while others say it is all just foolishness and don't believe in Christ or God. If we look at what Christ has to say about this he never claims to be God on this earth but stresses that God is in heaven: Matthew 18:10 "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." God would have to be in heaven, not on this earth, for the angels to always behold Him in heaven. Matthew 23: 9 "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." Christ makes distinction here by stating that no one currently on the earth is worthy of the title of father, and only God who is in heaven should be called Father. Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Mark 13:32 "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." Christ clearly differentiates himself from God, here, stating that the son doesn't know all that the Father (God) knows, which implies that the Father and the son are not physically the same person.

BAHA'I FAITH: "God is almighty, but His greatness cannot be brought within the grasp of human limitation. We cannot limit God to a boundary. Man is limited, but the world of Divinity is unlimited. Prescribing limitation to God is human ignorance. God is the Ancient, the Almighty; His attributes are infinite."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 274)

JUDAISM: Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent:" Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Christ says it best here, God is a spirit not a creation of man's imagination. God is not a man nor would pure perfection which is God seek to become imperfection which would be coming into this world:

BAHA'I FAITH: "God is pure perfection, and creatures are but imperfections. For God to descend into the conditions of existence would be the greatest of imperfections; on the contrary, His manifestation, His appearance, His rising are like the reflection of the sun in a clear, pure, polished mirror."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 113)

God is in a state of perfection existing in heaven. God is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient: God is everywhere at once, all encompassing, all knowing the all wise. It would be inconceivable that such might and greatness, the universe over, would consent to become packaged in the form of an ordinary human being.

What John means by his statement the word became flesh: Christianity: John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us," is that in Christ we saw the attributes of God almighty. In Christ we found the essences of God, we saw the perfections of God at work and we saw God shine in Christ the same way we would see the sun reflected in a mirror that is pointed at the sun. In Christ we saw God, but what we saw was the reflection of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4 "Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." God did not physically come down to this earth to be in Christ the same way that the sun did not come down from the heavens to be in the mirror. The mirror is a reflector of the sun when the mirror is pointed at the sun. In the same way Christ is a reflector of God when he is focused on God. This way Christ was the word in the flesh because God was the word

and in Christ we saw God or we heard and saw the word of God. 2 Timothy 2:8 "Remember that Jesus Christ..., the word of God, is not bound."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The reality of divinity is sanctified above this degree of knowing and realization. It has ever been hidden and secluded in its own holiness and sanctity above our comprehending. Although it transcends our realization, its lights, bestowals, traces and virtues have become manifest in the realities of the prophets, even as the sun becomes resplendent in various mirrors. These holy realities are as reflectors, and the reality of divinity is as the sun which although it is reflected from the mirrors, and its virtues and perfections become resplendent therein, does not stoop from its own station of majesty and glory and seek abode in the mirrors; it remains in its heaven of sanctity. At most it is this, that its lights become manifest and evident in its mirrors or manifestations. Therefore its bounty proceeding from them is one bounty but the recipients of that bounty are many. This is the unity of God; this is oneness; -- unity of divinity, holy above ascent or descent, embodiment, comprehension or idealization; -- divine unity. The prophets are its mirrors; its lights are revealed through them; its virtues become resplendent in them, but the Sun of Reality never descends from its own highest point and station. This is unity, oneness, sanctity; this is glorification whereby we praise and adore God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the Word of God there is still another unity, the oneness of the Manifestations of God, His Holiness Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ, Muhammad, the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. This is a unity divine, heavenly, radiant, merciful; the one reality appearing in its successive manifestations."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 258)

The word comes to man as God wants it and not as man would like it to suit him.

386. The word comes to man as God wants it and not as man would like it to suit him: Man is a creature of habit, he likes to hold onto things that are familiar to him, thus when a new manifestation of God comes to him with a new message from God, most men are content to hold onto the writings they were familiar with, which has been taught to them from birth. The problem is these teachings have been passed down from father to son for generations and have become little more than mere traditions and sayings that little resemble the teachings of the religion at its conception. So, men are holding onto an old archaic message, with the light of God almost completely gone out of it, while God's new messenger comes with a new message just glowing with the light of God in it. So, most men fail to see that the light of both religions comes from the same source and they fail to see the new religion for what it is; the same recurring message from God. In fact, some of the people hold onto their old religious beliefs, so strongly, that they become hostile and filled with hatred for the new religion and rise up and try to stamp out the light of the new faith. ✝ Christianity: Mark 4:17 "affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake," ✡ Judaism: Jeremiah 50:6 "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray." Jeremiah 6:19 "Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it." 1 Kings 15:23 "Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, He hath also rejected thee." Hosea 6:6 "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." ✝ Christianity: John 12:48 "He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 5:43 "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." John 5:44 "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?" John 5:45 "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust." John 5:46 "For had ye believed Moses,

ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me." John 5:47 "But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" 1 Thessalonians 1:5 "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake." 1 Thessalonians 2:4 "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." 1 Thessalonians 2:5 "For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness." 1 Thessalonians 2:6 "Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others." 1 Thessalonians 2:7 "But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:" 1 Thessalonians 2:8 "So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us." 1 Thessalonians 2:13 "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Now that the discourse hath reached this exalted and intractable theme and touched upon this sublime and impenetrable mystery, know that the Christian and Jewish peoples have not grasped the intent of the words of God and the promises He hath made to them in His Book, and have therefore denied His Cause, turned aside from His Prophets, and rejected His proofs. Had they but fixed their gaze upon the testimony of God itself, had they refused to follow in the footsteps of the abject and foolish among their leaders and divines, they would doubtless have attained to the repository of guidance and the treasury of virtue, and quaffed from the crystal waters of life eternal in the city of the All-Merciful, in the garden of the All-Glorious, and within the inner reality of His paradise. But as they have refused to see with the eyes wherewith God hath endowed them, and desired things other than that which He in His mercy had desired for them, they have strayed far from the retreats of nearness, have been deprived of the living waters of reunion and the wellspring of His grace, and have lain as dead within the shrouds of their own selves."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gems of Divine Mysteries, pp. 6 and 7)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The generality of the people, owing to their failure to grasp the meaning of these words, rejected and despised the person of the Manifestation, deprived themselves of the light of His divine guidance, and refused to follow the example of that immortal Beauty.

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 113)

The book, The Word of God, is a balance that judges the actions and conduct of men.

387. The book, The Word of God, is a balance that judges the actions and conduct of men: Christianity: John 12:48 "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."
Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Judaism: Hosea 6:5 "Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and Thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth." Hosea 6:6 "For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God," which judgeth their hearts. Christianity: Revelation 20:12 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Know verily that the purpose underlying all these symbolic terms and abstruse allusions, which emanate from the

Revealers of God's holy Cause, hath been to test and prove the peoples of the world; that thereby the earth of the pure and illuminated hearts may be known from the perishable and barren soil. From time immemorial such hath been the way of God amidst His creatures, and to this testify the records of the sacred books."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 48)

The word is hid from the spiritually blind.

388. The word is hid from the spiritually blind and those individuals who, by some action in this life, God chooses to withhold the truth from their eyes: This is a very common reaction to men at the inception of a new dispensation. Many people just can't see the hidden truths veiled within the heart of the words of God. ✝ Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit." Since God is a spirit it only stands to reason that we should worship Him in spirit, and that His words are, in reality, spiritual in context, so the word is hidden from most people who think on a more physical level. ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 6:9 "And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not." 29:10 "For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered." 29:11 "And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed," Jeremiah 5:21 "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:" 5:22 "Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?" 5:23 "But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone." ✝ Christianity: John 12:40 "He (God) hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them." Luke 9:45 "But they

understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not:" 2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:" 2 Corinthians 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4:18 "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 8:12 "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "These words have streamed from the pen of this Wronged One in one of His Tablets: 'The purpose of the one true God, exalted be His glory, hath been to bring forth the Mystic Gems out of the mine of man -- they Who are the Dawning-Places of His Cause and the Repositories of the pearls of His knowledge; for, God Himself, glorified be He, is the Unseen, the One concealed and hidden from the eyes of men."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 13)

"It is now incumbent upon them who are endowed with a hearing ear and a seeing eye to ponder these sublime words, in each of which the oceans of inner meaning and explanation are hidden, that haply the words uttered by Him Who is the Lord of Revelation may enable His servants to attain, with the utmost joy and radiance, unto the Supreme Goal and Most Sublime Summit -- the dawning-place of this Voice."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 147)

"Inspire then my soul, O my God, with Thy wondrous remembrance, that I may glorify Thy name. Number me not with them who read Thy words and fail to find Thy hidden gift which, as decreed by Thee, is contained therein, and which quickeneth the souls of Thy creatures and the hearts of Thy servants."

(Bahá'í Faith, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 82)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Consider the multitude of souls who seemed to be intensely eager and athirst, yet when the Ocean of living waters did surge forth in the world of being, they remained deprived thereof, inasmuch as they failed to relinquish idle fancy and to become consciously aware of Him Who is the Object of all knowledge. This failure is in recompense for the deeds their hands had formerly wrought." (Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 235) "Thus hath God blinded your eyes in requital for your deeds, would ye but understand." (Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 7) "Render thou thanks unto the Beloved of the world for having graciously aided thee to attain confirmation in this glorious Cause." (Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 235)

The word of God is the creative word of God.

389. The word of God is the creative word of God. The word of God is a creative powerful word. Through one word God joined the two letters together B and E and all existence came into being. Judaism: Psalms 33:6 "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth." Psalms 33:9 "For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." Psalms 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for He commanded, and they were created.

BAHA'I FAITH: "How can, then, such a man succeed in befittingly extolling the One through a motion of Whose finger all the names and their kingdom were called into being, and all the attributes and their dominion were created, and Who, through yet another motion of that same finger, hath united the letters B and E (Be) and knit them together, manifesting thereby what the highest thoughts of Thy chosen ones who enjoy near access to Thee are unable to grasp, and what the profoundest wisdom of those of Thy loved ones that are wholly devoted to Thee are powerless to fathom."

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 303)

 **JUDAISM: Ezekiel 12:28 "The word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD."**  **Christianity: Hebrews 11:3 "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Shoghi Effendi, in letters written on his behalf, has explained the significance of the 'letters B and E'. They constitute the word 'Be', which, he states, 'means the creative Power of God Who through His command causes all things to come into being'"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 247)

Through another word of His mouth, "Fashioner," all the energy and creativity for the arts and sciences that came about in the past and all that will come about in the future came into being.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Through the mere revelation of the word 'Fashioner,' issuing forth from His lips and proclaiming His attribute to mankind, such power is released as can generate, through successive ages, all the manifold arts which the hands of man can produce."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 141)

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 51:15 He hath made the earth by His power, He hath established the world by His wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by His understanding.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "That which hath been in existence had existed before, but not in the form thou seest today. The world of existence came into being through the heat generated from the interaction between the active force and that which is its recipient. These two are the same, yet they are different. Thus doth the Great Announcement**

inform thee about this glorious structure. Such as communicate the generating influence and such as receive its impact are indeed created through the irresistible Word of God which is the Cause of the entire creation, while all else besides His Word are but the creatures and the effects thereof. Verily thy Lord is the Expounder, the All-Wise."

(Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 140)

The word of God is the light and life of mankind.

390. The word of God is the light and life of mankind: 
Judaism: Deuteronomy 8:3 "And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live." Deuteronomy 32:46 "And He said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 32:47 "For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it." Proverbs 4:20 "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings." Proverbs 4:21 "Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart." Proverbs 4:22 "For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh." Proverbs 6:23 "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:"


BAHA'I FAITH: "The Word of God is the cause of spiritual life. It is a quickening spirit,"

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 119)


CHRISTIANITY: John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and

they are life." The word of God is the true source of life to the world of man, by it man learns of God and man learns of the things one must do to foster our spiritual life. Without the word we would know nothing of our spirits, or our existence. John 5:24 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." Luke 4:4 "And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." 2 Timothy 1:10 "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:" This tells us that life was brought to man through the gospel or through the word of God which means the word of God is one of the main causes of spiritual life to mankind, because if we hear the word and believe the word we live our life by the word thus obtaining spiritual life. ✡ Judaism: Psalms 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The word of God is not only the source of life to mankind; the word of God is also the supreme source of light and understanding in the existence of man. Psalms 119:130 "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." ✝ Christianity: John 1:4 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." 2 Peter 1:19 "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; where unto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place,"

✝ **CHRISTIANITY: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God: the Same was in the beginning with God: all things were made by Him, and without Him was nothing made: that which was made by Him is life, and the life was the light of men, and the light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. And that the soul of man, though it bears witness to the light, yet itself is not that light; but the Word of God, being God, is that true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world." (Confessions of St Augustine, Book 7)**

✝ **CHRISTIANITY: Philippians 2:15 "Ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life;**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In the spiritual realm of intelligence and idealism there must be a center of illumination, and that center is the everlasting, ever-shining Sun, the Word of God. Its lights are the lights of reality which have shone upon humanity, illumining the realm of thought and morals, conferring the bounties of the divine world upon man. These lights are the cause of the education of souls and the source of the enlightenment of hearts, sending forth in effulgent radiance the message of the glad-tidings of the Kingdom of God. In brief, the moral and ethical world and the world of spiritual regeneration are dependent for their progressive being upon that heavenly center of illumination. It gives forth the light of religion and bestows the life of the spirit, imbues humanity with archetypal virtues and confers eternal splendors."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 10)

Words and book sealed until the time of the end.

391. Words and book sealed until the time of the end. The big question, why is there so much confusion about the 2nd coming of Christ? There has been much confusion over the centuries as to the true meaning of many of the prophecies dealing with the second coming of Christ; but the true understandings were never meant to be understood until the time of the end, as attested to by Daniel the prophet: ✡ Judaism: Daniel 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:8 "And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" Daniel 12:9 "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." The words are sealed up till the time of the end so we won't be able to understand the meaning of the words, or the meanings of the prophecies, until the time of the end when the books are unsealed and opened. The prophet Isaiah also had something to say about the

closed and sealed nature of the books. Judaism: Isaiah 29:11 "And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed."

I cannot read this because it is sealed. It is no wonder humanity was not able to decipher the closed nature of these major prophecies; man was never meant to until the time of the end when Christ would appear with angles with a new name as attested to by Christ. Christianity: Matthew 24:44 "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." John 24: 36 "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Mark 13: 32 "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." So, it was not to be expected that mankind was going to be able to understand these words from the past easily, the prophets themselves didn't understand the meanings of their prophecies.

CHRISTIANITY: 2 Peter 1:20 "no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." 2 Peter 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." It was only after the year 1844, as prophecies mentioned earlier attest to that the true meaning of these verses came to light with the true opening of these books.

BAHA'I FAITH: "The books of the past and their mysteries have been at last unsealed."

(Compilations, The Compilation of Compilations vol. I, p. 22)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Kitáb-i-Íqán unsealed the heavenly Books of the past. Like the morning sun which brightens the eye, it illumined the hearts and imparted knowledge and understanding to the minds."

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 4, p. 154)

If anyone has some difficulty believing that the seals are broken and the books are open we only have to look back to the words of Daniel concerning the unsealing of the book: Judaism: Daniel 12:4 "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased at the time of the end and the books will be opened. I don't think there is anyone who wouldn't agree that this has happened. In today's world people truly are going to and fro in a mad rush all over the world, and one can hardly argue that there hasn't been a tremendous increase in the acquisition of knowledge. Since the year of 1844 knowledge has seemed to increase exponentially with the passing of time to the point that knowledge seems to double itself within the passing of only a few years.

World to come.

392. World to come. Some people think that this world is to be our heaven, example: on earth like it is in heaven, with us making our heavenly home here. But, the bible and the writings of the Bahá'í Faith tell us differently. Christianity: Matthew 12:32 "And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." Christ is very clear on this. He differentiates between this world and the world to come saying neither in this world, this physical world, and neither in the world to come, the spiritual world. I say spiritual world because Paul explicitly tells us that flesh and blood, our physical body, cannot enter physically into heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:50 "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;" Flesh and blood cannot go to heaven, which in essence differentiates this world from the next. In the Bahá'í Writings, we also find that the Faith differentiates between this world and the world to come.

BAHA'I FAITH: "I implore Thee, O Beloved of my heart and the Object of my soul's adoration, to shield them that love me from the

faintest trace of evil and corrupt desires. Supply them, then, with the good of this world and of the next."

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 8)

Supply them with the good of this world, this physical world and the next, the spiritual world. Judaism: 4 Ezra "And he answered me, saying, The most High hath made this world for many, but the world to come for few." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)

BAHA'I FAITH: "In the spiritual world, the divine bestowals are infinite, for in that realm there is neither separation nor disintegration which characterize the world of material existence. Spiritual existence is absolute immortality, completeness and unchangeable being. Therefore we must thank God that He has created for us both material blessings and spiritual bestowals."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 266)

CHRISTIANITY: Mark 10:30 "But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

Again Christ separates this world, a world of houses and family, a world of physical toil and persecutions from the next world, a world where man obtains eternal life.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Shield them, I entreat Thee, O my Lord, from the assaults of their evil passions and desires, and aid them to obtain the things that shall profit them in this present world and in the next."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 300)

Bahá'u'lláh again makes the distinction between the world of our present life and of the world to come, or the next world. Christianity:

Luke 18:30 "Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." Life is definitely not everlasting in this physical plane of existence. Life definitely has a beginning and an end so the two worlds need not be confused as the same world. The promise of everlasting life is strictly associated with the next world not this one.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We beseech God to aid them to do His will and pleasure. He, verily, is the Lord of the throne on high and of earth below, and the Lord of this world and of the world to come."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 31)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Hebrews 2:5 "For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak." Paul hints at the existence of a world to come, a world where angels can be found not under subjection. This place, this world to come is where heaven is to be found, because it is a place where angels can be found. According to Jesus, in Matthew, heaven is a place where angels always behold the face of God: Matthew 18:10 "....angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven." And heaven is not physically found on this earth because God is not physical.**  **Judaism: Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man," God is not a man that angels would physically see Him on this earth.**  **Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit:" God is a spirit found in a nonphysical heaven or a nonphysical world to come. (See heaven is not a physical place, for more information).**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Give them, moreover, to drink of the living waters of Thy knowledge, and ordain for them the good of this world and of the world to come."**

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 109)

World of no value to God, His prophets and his servants.

393. World of no value to God, His prophets and his servants: Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Since God is of the spirit the physical world holds no real value to Him. True spiritual countenance has no great need for treasures of the material world. Judaism: Proverbs 10:2 "Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death."

BAHA'I FAITH: "As soon as they drank the choice wine of faith from the chalice of assurance in the hands of the Manifestations of the praised One, were so transformed were so overcome by excess of longing for God, and by ecstasies of eternal joy, that they would not value the world and all therein as a wisp of straw."

(Bahá'í Faith, Compilations, Baha'i Scriptures, p. 42)

JUDAISM: Proverbs 11:4 "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death." Tobias 4:21 "And fear not, my son, that we are made poor: for thou hast much wealth, if thou fear God, and depart from all sin, and do that which is pleasing in His sight." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Psalms 49:6 "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;" Psalms 49:7 "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:" Psalms 49:8 "(For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)" Psalms 49:9 "That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption." Psalms 49:10 "For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others." They all, rich or poor, go into the next life, with nothing from this life, but the actions they performed in this life, good or bad.

BAHA'I FAITH: "It is obvious and manifest that the whole world is devoid of any real value."

(Bahá'í Faith, Compilations, Huququ'llah)

 **JUDAISM: Job 31:24 "If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence;" Job 31:25 "If I rejoice because my wealth was great, and because mine hand had gotten much;" Job 31:26 "If I beheld the sun when it shined, or the moon walking in brightness;" Job 31:27 "And my heart hath been secretly enticed, or my mouth hath kissed my hand:" Job 31:28 "This also were an iniquity to be punished by the judge: for I should have denied the God that is above."**

(King James Bible, Job)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know, therefore, O questioning seeker, that earthly sovereignty is of no worth, nor will it ever be, in the eyes of God and His chosen Ones."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 125)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 12:17 "And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." For, John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit!!!" Romans 8:13 "If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Matthew 6:20 "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:" Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." So if you lay up spiritual treasures for yourself in heaven, there will your heart be also.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This material world has not such value or such excellence that man, after having escaped from this cage, will desire a second time to fall into this snare."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 286)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 10:21 "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me." Jesus had so little interest in the things of this world and the treasures of this life that he ask nothing for himself, but told, a would be disciple, to sell all he had and give all his accumulated wealth to the poor. Jesus had so little interest in the things of this world that he asked nothing for himself that would ease the burden of hardships of his life, or the hardships of the lives of his disciples. And we know they lived in dire striates because we are told this from Christ's very own words: Matthew 8:20 "And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Jesus didn't hold any real value in the things of this life, nor did those who followed him.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It would be impossible to conceive any act more contemptible than soliciting, in the name of the one true God, the riches which men possess."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 201)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 19:21 "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor," It is not the way of God's chosen ones to become embroiled in the vanities of this earthly life, but to leave the treasures of this world to those who desire them. And I find myself repeating this again: Matthew 6:19 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "consider how base a nature it reveals in man that, notwithstanding the favors showered upon him by God, he should**

lower himself into the animal sphere, be wholly occupied with material needs, attached to this mortal realm, imagining that the greatest happiness is to attain wealth in this world. How purposeless! How debased is such a nature!"

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 185)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "As Jesus washed His disciples' feet, so Bahá'u'lláh used Sometimes to cook food and perform other lowly offices for His followers. He was a servant of the servants, and gloried only in servitude, content to sleep on a bare floor if need be, to live on bread and water, or even, at times, on what He called "the divine nourishment, that is to say, hunger!"**

(Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 45)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The burial of these three posed a difficult problem for the company of exiles. For the Government refused to allow anyone from among the prisoners to bury them, nor did they provide funds for their burial. The guards demanded payment of necessary expenses for burial before removing the bodies. And as there were very few possessions which could be sold, in order to raise the money Bahá'u'lláh ordered the sale of the only luxury He had, a small prayer carpet used by Him. This was done, and the proceeds were handed to the guards who then pocketed the money and buried the dead in the clothes they wore, without coffins and without the customary Muslim rites of washing and wrapping the bodies in shrouds."**

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 3, p. 20)

God uses the things of this world to test man.

394. God uses the things of this world to test man. The world is a test for mankind. God uses the things of this world as an

enticement to draw, the ones who are inclined to attachment to the glitter of this life, away from the spiritual things of life, allowing people to become dazzled by the distractions of what pleasures this world has to offer; thereby separating out the ones with the spiritual seeing eyes from those who are content to just wallow in whatever lusts this world seems to offer them. In other words, this world is a testing ground to separate out the worldly souls from the heavenly souls. Islam: 32. "What is the life of this world but play and amusement and glitter," "It was the life of this world that deceived them." (The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah's 6 and 33) Judaism: Ecclesiastes 6:1 "There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men:" 6:2 "A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease." 6:3 "If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, I say, that an untimely birth is better than he." 6:4 "For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness." Ecclesiastes 3:9 "What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth? I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in His time: also He hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. I know that there is no good in them." Proverbs 18:11 "The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit." Psalms 49:6 "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;" Psalms 49:7 "None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:" Psalms 49:8 "(For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)" Proverbs 13:6 "Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner." Proverbs 13:7 "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches." Psalms 73:12 "Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Surely Thou didst set them in slippery places: Thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one

awaketh; so, O Lord, when Thou awakest, Thou shalt despise their image." 4 Ezra 16:73 "Then shall they be known, who are my chosen; and they shall be tried as the gold in the fire." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha) Sirach 2:5 "For gold is tried in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of adversity." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 21:34 "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting (glutinous excess), and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21:35 "For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth." 1 Timothy 6:9 "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." 1 Corinthians 1:26 "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are:" 1 John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away." Revelation 3:17 "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "O SON OF BEING! Busy not thyself with this world, for with fire We test the gold, and with gold We test Our servants."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Arabic Hidden Words)

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Peter 1:7 "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "But if the health and welfare of man be spent in sensual desires, in a life on the animal plane, and in devilish pursuits -- then disease is better than such health; nay, death itself is preferable to such a life."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 376)

Spiritual life is the process of living for God, while living for the world leads to spiritual depravation and death.

395. Spiritual life is the process of living for God, while living for the world leads to spiritual depravation and death. Living life for the pursuit material goods and worldly desires is the road to spiritual depravation and death. When a man places his hopes and desires on the world he reflects the aspects of the world and not the aspects of the spiritual kingdom of God. He becomes worldly engulfed in the darkness of this world: Christianity: John 3:31 "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth:"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The meditative faculty is akin to the mirror; if you put it before earthly objects it will reflect them. Therefore if the spirit of man is contemplating earthly subjects he will be informed of these. But if you turn the mirror of your spirits heavenwards, the heavenly constellations and the rays of the Sun of Reality will be reflected in your hearts, and the virtues of the Kingdom will be obtained."**

"Therefore let us keep this faculty rightly directed -- turning it to the heavenly Sun and not to earthly objects -- so that we may discover the secrets of the Kingdom, and comprehend the allegories of the Bible and the mysteries of the spirit."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 175)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Galatians 1:3 "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ," Galatians 1:4 "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:" Philippians 3:18 "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:" Philippians 3:19 "Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things" James 4:4 ".....know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." We can't be a friend of the world and a friend of God at the same time. If we place our affections on the world we become worldly and the animal inside of us has control. Romans 9:8 "They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God:" Those individuals who crave after the flesh of this world and its treasures are not considered by Paul to be the children of God, instead they are the children of the world.**  **Judaism: Psalms 69:32 "Your heart shall live that seek God," freeing up one's self from the delusions of this earthly life.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If the health and welfare of man be spent in sensual desires, in a life on the animal plane, and in devilish pursuits -- then disease is better than such heath; nay, death itself is preferable to such a life."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 207)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." 1 John 2:16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." The world is anything that turns us away from God and attracts us to the vanities of this life. 1 John 2:17 "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."**  **Judaism: Ezra 39. "Flee the shadow of this**

world, receive the joyfulness of your glory:" (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Purge your hearts from love of the world, and your tongues from calumny, and your limbs from whatsoever may withhold you from drawing nigh unto God, the Mighty, the All-Praised. Say: By the world is meant that which turneth you aside from Him Who is the Dawning-Place of Revelation, and inclineth you unto that which is unprofitable unto you. Verily, the thing that deterreth you, in this day, from God is worldliness in its essence."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 54)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Colossians 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Colossians 3:2 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."**  **Judaism: Psalms 27:16 "A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked." Psalms 62:10 "If riches increase, set not your heart upon them." Proverbs 15:16 "Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Delight not yourselves in the things of the world and its vain ornaments, neither set your hopes on them. Let your reliance be on the remembrance of God, the Most Exalted, the Most Great."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 127)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Peter 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 2:20 "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Blessed is the man whom the affairs of the world have failed to deter from recognizing Him Who is the Lord of all things."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 39)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Galatians 1:3 "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ," Galatians 1:4 "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:" 2 Corinthians 7:10 ".....the sorrow of the world worketh death."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Man must sever himself from the influences of the world of matter, from the world of nature and its laws; for the material world is the world of corruption and death. It is the world of evil and darkness, of animalism and ferocity, bloodthirstiness, ambition and avarice, of self-worship, egotism and passion; it is the world of nature."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 451)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." Romans 8:5 "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." Romans 8:6 "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Romans 8:7 "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die:"**

Those people who only think worldly thoughts holding onto the pleasures of this earthly life are considered, by God, to be dead to the spirit even though they may be living and breathing in this physical world.  **Christianity: John 3:31 "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know ye that by 'the world' is meant your unawareness of Him Who is your Maker, and your absorption in aught else but Him."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 275)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 8:36 "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Romans 11:15 "For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Whatsoever deterreth you, in this Day, from loving God is nothing but the world. Flee it, that ye may be numbered with the blest. Should a man wish to adorn himself with the ornaments of the earth, to wear its apparels, or partake of the benefits it can bestow, no harm can befall him, if he alloweth nothing whatever to intervene between him and God, for God hath ordained every good thing, whether created in the heavens or in the earth, for such of His servants as truly believe in Him. Eat ye, O people, of the good things which God hath allowed you, and deprive not yourselves from His wondrous bounties. Render thanks and praise unto Him, and be of them that are truly thankful."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 276)

Living for the pleasures of the world leads to our spiritual death and I don't think more needs to be said about that; however, if living only for the pleasures this world can offer leads to death, then living for God, living the life He has marked out for us leads to spiritual happiness and spiritual life.

 **JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 30:16 "..... I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live," Do the things God has told us to do, "walk in His ways," keep His statutes and**

judgments and thou mayest have life meaning our spirits will be living a spiritual life. Proverbs 12:28 "In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death." Living a life that is just and with morals is life to our soul, whereas living in carnal desire leads to spiritual death. Christianity: Romans 8:6 "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Judaism: Deuteronomy 5:33 "Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live," Again if we walk in the ways of the lord we will have life and if we keep His commandments and live by His laws that life will shine. Proverbs 7:2 "Keep my commandments, and live." Ezekiel 18:26 "When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die." Ezekiel 18:27 "Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive." By these statements from Ezekiel it becomes apparent that we are responsible for the state of our soul by our actions.

BAHA'I FAITH: "We, verily, have decreed in Our Book a goodly and bountiful reward to whosoever will turn away from wickedness and lead a chaste and godly life. He, in truth, is the Great Giver, the All-Bountiful."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 117)

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 10:26 "He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?" Luke 10:27 "And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Luke 10:28 "And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live." Living the life is not just in words it is, as I said earlier, in actions. By following the writings and living by them, incorporating them into our actions and our lives, we live.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If the human spirit will rejoice and be attracted to the Kingdom of God, if the inner sight becomes opened, and the spiritual hearing strengthened, and the spiritual feelings predominant, he will see the immortality of the spirit as clearly as he sees the sun, and the glad tidings and signs of God will encompass him."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 324)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." If we live after the flesh we are considered dead by Paul, but if we, through the spirit subdue the actions of the body we find spiritual life through Christ and Bahá'u'lláh's teachings becoming active in our lives.**  **Judaism: Psalms 12:28 "In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death." Proverbs 11:19 "As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death." Deuteronomy 4:4 "But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day."**  **Christianity: John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." The word of God is the true source of life to the world of man; by it man learns of God and man learns of the things one must do to foster our spiritual life. Without the word we know nothing of our spirits or our existence. John 5:24 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Word of God is the cause of spiritual life. It is a quickening spirit,"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 119)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Timothy 1:10 "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:" This**

tells us that life was brought to man through the gospel or through the word of God which means the word of God is the cause of spiritual life to mankind, because if we hear the word and believe the word we live our life by we thus obtain spiritual life. James 5:20 "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Therefore whatever is the cause of harmony, attraction and union among men is the life of the world of humanity, and whatever is the cause of difference, of repulsion and of separation is the cause of the death of mankind."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablet to the Hague, p. 13)

 **JUDAISM: Proverbs 9:16 "He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; but he that despiseth His ways shall die."**  **Christianity: John 11:25 "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:" 1 Thessalonians 3:8 "For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When the sanctified breezes of Christ and the holy light of the Greatest Luminary were spread abroad, the human realities -- that is to say, those who turned toward the Word of God and received the profusion of His bounties -- were saved from this attachment and sin, obtained everlasting life, were delivered from the chains of bondage, and attained to the world of liberty. They were freed from the vices of the human world, and were blessed by the virtues of the Kingdom."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 124)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The rewards of the other world are the perfections and the peace obtained in the spiritual worlds after leaving this world; whilst the rewards of this life are the real luminous perfections which**

are realized in this world, and which are the cause of eternal life, for they are the very progress of existence."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 324)

Worship God in all things, in daily work, in prayers, in fasting, in the study of the word, in everything you do.

396. Worship God in all things, in daily work, in prayers, in fasting, in the study of the word, in everything you do: To worship God in all things, in everything we do, is a teaching found in the Bahá'í Faith. This is also a teaching found in The Holy Bible of the Christian religion. The only difference I find is that God has elevated the state of work and education to the station of worship of God, but this is not a concept completely unknown to Christianity. We just have to make an active effort on our part to worship God in everything we do; consciously making the effort, which is something we should do anyway throughout the day. ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 11:13 "Hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul," in everything you do. 13:3 "For the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul." ✡ Judaism Deuteronomy 26:10 "Worship before the LORD thy God: And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee." Psalms 92:1 "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High:" 92:2 "Shew forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night." Psalms 92:4 "For Thou, LORD, hast made me glad through Thy work: I will triumph in the works of Thy hands." 96:7 "Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory." 96:8 "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name." Jeremiah 13:16 "Give glory to the LORD your God." Joshua 7:19 "My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel," at all times, in everything you do.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Worship none but God, and, with radiant hearts, lift up your faces unto your Lord, the Lord of all names. This is a Revelation to which whatever ye possess can never be compared, could ye but know it."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 210)

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 Corinthians 10:31 "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Thessalonians 1:2 "Give thanks to God always," 5:18 "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 2 Thessalonians 2:13 "We are bound to give thanks always to God."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is enjoined upon every one of you to engage in some form of occupation, such as crafts, trades and the like. We have graciously exalted your engagement in such work to the rank of worship unto God, the True One. Ponder ye in your hearts the grace and the blessings of God and render thanks unto Him at eventide and at dawn."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 26)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Colossians 3:17 "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "As thou enterest a school of agriculture and strivest in the acquisition of that science thou art day and night engaged in acts of worship -- acts that are accepted at the threshold of the Almighty. What bounty greater than this that science should be considered as an act of worship and art as service to the Kingdom of God."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 377)

CHRISTIANITY: Colossians 3:23 "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh had also in His writings given a most important place to Art, and the practice of skilled trades. He had stated that the practice of an Art or Trade in the true spirit of service was identical with the worship of God."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 71)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Worship ye God, join with Him no peer or likeness; and show forth kindliness and charity towards your parents...' Observe how loving kindness to one's parents hath been linked to recognition of the one true God! Happy they who are endued with true wisdom and understanding, who see and perceive, who read and understand, and who observe that which God hath revealed in the Holy Books of old, and in this incomparable and wondrous Tablet."

(Bahá'í Faith, Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 139)

Worship privately don't worship just to attract attention to yourself.

397. Worship privately don't worship just to attract attention to yourself. Christianity: Matthew 6:1 "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 6:2 "Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." Matthew 6:3 "But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know

what thy right hand doeth:" Matthew 6:4 "That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:5 "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." Matthew 6:6 "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matthew 6:7 "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." Matthew 6:8 "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To none is it permitted to mutter sacred verses before the public gaze as he walketh in the street or marketplace; nay rather, if he wish to magnify the Lord, it behoveth him to do so in such places as have been erected for this purpose, or in his own home. This is more in keeping with sincerity and godliness. Thus hath the sun of Our commandment shone forth above the horizon of Our utterance. Blessed, then, be those who do Our bidding.**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 58)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 6:16 "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." Matthew 6:17 "But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;" Matthew 6:18 "That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."**  **Judaism: Lamentations 3:25 "The LORD is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke of his youth. He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To none is it permitted to mutter sacred verses before the public gaze as he walketh in the street or marketplace"**

"This is an allusion to the practice of certain clerics and religious leaders of earlier Dispensations who, out of hypocrisy and affectation, and in order to win the praise of their followers, would ostentatiously mutter prayers in public places as a demonstration of their piety. Bahá'u'lláh forbids such behaviour and stresses the importance of humility and genuine devotion to God."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 223)

Do not add or take away from the word of God.

398. Do not add or take away from the word of God. In the writings of God we are warned not to add or take away from the word of God. This teaching is found in Old Testament in Deuteronomy and in the New Testament in Revelations: Judaism: Deuteronomy 4:2 "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." Deuteronomy 12:32 "What thing so ever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it." Proverbs 30:6 "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." Jeremiah 26:2 "Thus saith the LORD; diminish not a word." Christianity: Revelations 22:18 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:" Revelations 22:19 "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." James: 2:10 "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

This is also a teaching is also found in the Bahá'í Faith:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To no one is given the right to interpret His words, to add even a dot, or to take one away."**

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Covenant of Baha'u'llah, p. 101)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Put into his hands a new Book, pure and holy, that this Book may be free from all doubt and uncertainty, and that no one may be able to alter or destroy it."**

The Bab: (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 249)

To no one is given the right to tamper with the word of God or change the meaning. The word of God is sacred and should be treated as such. In the bible and the Bahá'í Faith we are warned not to change the word in order to safe guard the sacred texts for the benefit of all mankind so future generations will be able to study the writings with confidence in the validity of the scripture. Bahá'í Faith: "We must never take one sentence in the Teachings and isolate it from the rest..." for our own benefit or interpretation, while ignoring what the rest of the teachings do in fact teach and say.

(Compilations, Lights of Guidance, p. 403)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Beware lest anyone falsely interpret these words, and like unto them that have broken the Covenant after the Day of Ascension (of Bahá'u'lláh) advance a pretext, raise the standard of revolt, wax stubborn and open wide the door of false interpretation. To none is given the right to put forth his own opinion or express his particular convictions. All must seek guidance and turn unto the Center of the Cause and the House of Justice. And he that turneth unto whatsoever else is indeed in grievous error."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section)

Prophecies of the second coming of Christ.

Three main prophecies of the 2nd coming of Christ.

399. Three main prophecies of the 2nd coming of Christ. In the bible there are many prophecies dealing with the second coming of Christ, but there are three main prophecies given in Matthew, Mark and Luke by Jesus Christ himself that set the stage for all the other prophecies. They are: 1. Religion is preached or published around the world, 2. Day of the gentiles is fulfilled, 3. Abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel. These are the main three prophecies we want to look at when we are trying to determine the time in which Jesus Christ will return to this earth:

a. Religion is preached or published around the world.

Christianity: Matthew 24:3 "And as he (Jesus) sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." In this day and time it's not hard to accept that this prophecy has been fulfilled and then some. In the mid eighteen hundreds 1840s to 1850s though, it might have seemed a little harder to accept; even though scholars of that time period doing a study on the spread of Christianity stated that the gospel of Christ had been spread everywhere and was being taught on all the continents. By the year 1844 the Gospel of Christ was even being taught in the interior of Africa, and not on an individual missionary level but on a mission organized level. So, in the mid eighteen hundreds, for the first time in human history this prophecy of the spread of Christianity around the world was believed to be fulfilled. If we look at Mark we find that Mark puts a little different slant on this prophecy by stating that the gospel must be published among all nations.

CHRISTIANITY: Mark 13:3 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately," Mark 13:4 "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?"

CHRISTIANITY: Mark 13:10 "And the gospel must first be published among all nations." By 1804 the holy bible was already translated into fifty languages. In 1804 the British and Foreign bible societies were formed. In 1816 the American Bible Society was formed. The purpose of these societies was the spreading of the written word of the gospels around the world. By 1843 the British and American Bible Societies with their numerous branches around the world were spreading the Gospel of Christ to every part of the world in every language with over four hundred million copies of the bible being distributed by the British and Foreign Bible Societies alone. This seems to be a pretty good indication that the Gospel of Christ was published among all the nations by 1843 to 1844. This gives us a good indication that both these prophecies of Jesus Christ's return, gospels preached around the world and gospels published around the world had both been fulfilled around the years 1843 to 1844.

b. Day of the gentiles. The day of the gentiles stands for a time when the holy land will be over ran and controlled by gentiles (non Jewish people): and Jews will not be in their country, or be allowed back into their country until the time of the gentiles is fulfilled which means the Jews will be allowed back into their country. Christianity: Luke 21:7 "And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?"

CHRISTIANITY: Luke 21:24 "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Romans 11:25 "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness

of the Gentiles be come in." 11:26 "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:"

In the year 132 AD, almost 100 years after the death of Christ, the Jewish people tried to rebel against Roman rule under the leadership of Bar Cochba. Because of this the Jewish armies were crushed under the Roman legions of Hadrian and Jerusalem was razed to the ground and a new city named in honor of Emperor Hadrian was built on it ruins. As the prophecy foretells, the Jewish people fell by the edge of the sword and were led away captive into all nations and for a Jew to enter the holy land was a crime punishable by death. The Jewish people were not allowed back into their own homeland until March 21, 1844 with the signing of the Edict of Toleration allowing Jewish people to legally come back into their homeland. For the first time in over seventeen hundred years the Jewish people were allowed back into the holy land, thus bringing about the end of the time of the gentiles and fulfilling yet another one of Jesus Christ's and Paul's prophecies about Jesus' second coming.

c. Abomination of desolation.

The abomination of desolation is a period of time starting from a point set by Daniel which gives us an amount of time until the crucifixion of Christ and the second coming of Christ. Christianity: Matthew 24:3 "And as he (Jesus) sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matthew 24:15 "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand)."

We find that our reference point for the beginning of the abomination of desolation starts with the command going out by a foreign king to not only rebuild Jerusalem, but to restore the city, which would indicate a complete working city with people living there with a government and civil laws in place etc....

 **JUDAISM: Daniel 9:25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem....."**

 **JUDAISM: Ezra 6:3 "In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits;" Ezra 6:14 "And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia." The decree of Artaxerxes issued in 457 B.C. dealt with the furnishing and finishing up of the temple of God in Jerusalem and the rebuilding of Jerusalem. The decrees from the other two kings, Cyrus and Darius, succeed in getting the bare walls and roof of the temple up and standing but it wasn't until the third edict in 457 B.C. that the temple was completed, but the city itself was not started on right away. Ezra 7:1 "In the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, 7:2 The son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, 7:3 The son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth, 7:4 The son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, 7:5 The son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest: 7:6 This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given: and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him. (The king gave Ezra everything he wanted, because the hand of God was upon him): 7:10 "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. Ezra 7:11 "Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even a scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of his statutes to Israel." Ezra 7:12 "Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time." Ezra 7:13 "I**

make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee" 7:14 "Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counsellors, to enquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem (here we can see that part of what Ezra was asking the Persian king was in fact dealing the rebuilding of Jerusalem, which we can see was indicated here because Ezra was clearly enquiring about Judah and Jerusalem), according to the law of thy God which is in thine hand;" 7:15 "And to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counsellors have freely offered unto the God of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem, 7:16 And all the silver and gold that thou canst find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their God which is in Jerusalem:" 7:18 "And whatsoever shall seem good to thee, and to thy brethren, to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, that do after the will of your God." Ezra 7:21 "And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily,"

The temple of God was finished, as I said earlier, by the 457 B.C. decree during the time of Ezra, but the city of Jerusalem itself was not started on until 444 B.C. but since this wasn't a true edict but letters given to Nehemiah from the same Persian King Artaxerxes, the 444 B.C. letters only allowed for the completion of the 457 B.C. edict with the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem itself. ✡ Judaism: Daniel 9:25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem....."

Since Daniel states that it is from the command to rebuild Jerusalem and not the actual rebuilding of Jerusalem that is the starting point we go with the 457 B.C. edict because Nehemiah was only given letters to use for the completion.

✡ **JUDAISM: Nehemiah 2:7 "Moreover I said unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah;" Nehemiah 2:8 "And a**

letter unto Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me."

Thus, with the 457 B.C. edict from Artaxerxes, the true decree for the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem, and the additional letters from Artaxerxes to Nehemiah, the work on the city commenced and the time of the desolation spoken of by Christ and Daniel proceeded.

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 24:3 "And as he (Jesus) sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matthew 24:15 "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand)." So 457 B.C. is the time frame we choose for the starting point of our time scale for the abomination of desolation.**

 **JUDAISM: Daniel 8:13 "Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, 'How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?'" Daniel 8:14 "And he said unto me, 'Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.'" The sanctuary will be cleansed by Christ returning in 2300 days or 2300 years according to prophetic days of the bible Numbers 14:33 "And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness." Numbers 14:34 "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise." Ezekiel 4:6 "And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year."**

The cleansing of the sanctuary is considered by many Christian theologians to be the time of the return of Jesus Christ, where as the ending of the daily sacrifice is considered to be the prediction of the crucifixion of Jesus. Both of these predictions came from Daniel and both start at the same point where Artaxerxes decreed the building of Jerusalem. So, from here it is all just a matter of doing some simple math. If we subtract 457 years from 2300 years we get eighteen hundred and forty three years, or the year 1843 as the time to look for Christ's return. But, if we bear in mind there is no 0 year going from B.C. to A.D. we get the year 1844 that Jesus Christ is telling his disciples we should expect his return.

If there is some confusion regarding this target year and these calculations; Daniel also uses this same desolate point of reference to prophesize the crucifixion of Christ. Judaism: Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy." Christ or Christos in Greek means anointed or the anointed one so we are given a clue here that this prophecy is talking about Christ because Daniel states: Daniel 9:24 ".....to anoint the most Holy." Or to anoint Jesus Christ who is in this case being called the Most Holy. Daniel 9:25 "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times." Daniel 9:26 "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:" Daniel 9:27 "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

From these statements from Daniel we can see that going from the command to rebuild Jerusalem by non Jewish kings to the crucifixion of Jesus, "Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:" there are seventy

weeks or seven weeks threescore (60 weeks) and two weeks plus one week during which Christ confirmed God's covenant with mankind and then he was crucified. So, again all we need to do is pull out our calculator and do some simple math. If we do our math right we come up with seventy weeks or 490 days or 490 prophetic years from the order to rebuild Jerusalem to when Christ will be crucified. If we subtract 457 years from 490 years we get 33 years or Jesus Christ was crucified at around 33 years of age. We know that Jesus Christ started his mission at around 30 years of age.  Christianity: Luke 3:23 "And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,)." We also know from biblical events that transpired during Christ's ministry that his ministry lasted approximately three years, so starting at age 30 Jesus would have been around 33 years of age when he was crucified, or well within the time frame Daniel predicted with his 70 weeks. If we lend credence to Daniel's prediction of Jesus Christ's crucifixion at age 33 then it is also very reasonable, very reasonable indeed, to assume that Daniels prediction about the cleansing of the sanctuary or the second coming being in the year 1844:

 **JUDAISM: Daniel 8:14 "And he said unto me, 'Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.'" I think we can assume that after 2300 years or the year 1844, by our times, is the time Christ was talking about his return.**

So, we have the prophecy of the preaching and publishing of the word of Christ for all the world to witness occurring somewhere between the 1840s and 1850s with choice years being around 1843 to 1844.

We have the signing of the Edict of Toleration by the Turkish Government on March 21st 1844, which in effect allowed the Jewish people back into their homeland for the first time in 12 centuries thus ending the prophecy of the day of the gentiles.

And we have the fulfillment of the prophecy of the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel ending in the year 1844. So, in effect,

we have all three prophecies from Jesus Christ himself that tell of his return to this earth occurring in the year 1844, which is the exact year the prophet founder of the Bábí religion, the forerunning religion to the Bahá'í Faith, the Báb declare himself as the one promised to us by Jesus Christ on May 23rd 1844.

And Jesus also tells us elsewhere of the end days and things to occur on the days of his second coming and things to occur after his return:

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 10:21 "And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death."10:22 "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." 10:23 "But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come." Mark 13:19 "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be."

BAHA'I FAITH: "BAHA'U'LLAH arose as the one who was expected, thousands accepted him and at once came under his banner."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Dreadful persecution ensued and more than twenty thousand martyrs joyfully gave up property and life rather than renounce the faith which they recognized as divine truth. At such variance were his teachings with the creed-bound world about him that BAHA'U'LLAH, with his family and followers, was banished to Bagdad, to Constantinople, to Adrianople and finally to the penal colony of Akká in Syria."

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 5)

BAHA'I FAITH: "His prediction came true, -- Hujjat, along with many of his companions, was besieged by a host of soldiers in Zanjan. The governor of Zanjan sent a crier through the streets saying, 'All who

throw in their lot with Hujjat will be destroyed, and their wives and children exposed to misery and shame!' This warning divided the city into two camps. There were pathetic sights of families being separated by their belief or disbelief in the Báb. Fathers turned away from their sons, women from their husbands, children from their mothers. Every tie of worldly affection seemed to be dissolved on that day. Zanjan became a city of panic. Men ran frantically to and fro trying to collect their wives and children and to persuade them to stand with them. Families divided their belongings and their children. Many wept over what they had to abandon. Whole houses were deserted. When a man, a woman, or a child would tear itself from its family or friends and rush to the support of Hujjat, a cry of joy would go up from one camp, and a moan of despair from the other. It was such a day as foretold by Christ for the days of the end when 'brother shall deliver up brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death.'"

(William Sears, Release the Sun, p. 160)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "In Persia the early believers in this revelation met with the utmost opposition, persecution and cruelty at the hands of their fellow countrymen, but they faced all calamities and ordeals with sublime heroism, firmness and patience. Their baptism was in their own blood, for many thousands of them perished as martyrs; while thousands more were beaten, imprisoned, stripped of their possessions, driven from their homes or otherwise ill-treated. For sixty years or more anyone in Persia who dared to own allegiance to the Báb or Bahá'u'lláh did so at the risk of his property, his freedom and even his life. Yet this determined and ferocious opposition could not more check the progress of the Movement than a cloud of dust could keep the sun from rising."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 252

BAHA'I FAITH: "The present reign, condemned criminals (what they considered the Bábís to be; to be) crucified, blown from guns (the mouths of cannons), buried alive, impaled, shod like horses, torn asunder by being bound to the heads of two trees bent together and then allowed to spring back to their natural position, converted into human torches, flayed while living." (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. xxviii)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Tihran, August 29, 1852. Dear Friend, My last letter of the 20th inst. mentioned the attempt on the King. I will now communicate to you the result of the interrogation to which the two criminals were subjected. In spite of the terrible tortures inflicted, the examination extorted no comprehensive confession; the lips of the fanatics remained closed, even when by means of red-hot pincers and limb-rending screws they sought to discover the chief conspirator.... But follow me, my friend, you who lay claim to a heart and European ethics, follow me to the unhappy ones who, with gouged-out eyes, must eat, on the scene of the deed, without any sauce, their own amputated ears; or whose teeth are torn out with inhuman violence by the hand of the executioner; or whose bare skulls are simply crushed by blows from a hammer; or where the bazar is illuminated with unhappy victims, because on right and left the people dig deep holes in their breasts and shoulders and insert burning wicks in the wounds. I saw some dragged in chains through the bazar preceded by a military band, in whom these wicks had burned so deep that now the fat flickered convulsively in the wound like a newly-extinguished lamp. Not seldom it happens that the unwearying ingenuity of the Orientals leads to fresh tortures. They will skin the soles of the Bábí's feet, soak the wounds in boiling oil, shoe the foot like the hoof of a horse, and compel the victim to run. No cry escaped from the victim's breast; the torment is endured in dark silence by the numbed sensation of the fanatic; now he must run; the body cannot endure what the soul has endured; he falls. Give him the coup de grace! Put him out of his pain! No! The executioner swings the whip, and -- I myself have had to witness it -- the unhappy victim of hundredfold tortures and runs! This is the beginning of the end. As for the end itself, they hang the

scorched and perforated bodies by their hands and feet to a tree head downwards, and now every Persian may try his marksmanship to heart's content from a fixed but not too proximate distance on the noble quarry placed at his disposal. I saw corpses torn by nearly 150 bullets.... When I read over again what I have written I am overcome by the thought that those who are with you in our dearly beloved Austria may doubt the full truth of the picture, and accuse me of exaggeration. Would to God that I had not lived to see it! But by the duties of my profession I was unhappily often, only too often, a witness of these abominations. At present I never leave my house, in order not to meet with fresh scenes of horror. After their death the Bábís are hacked in two and either nailed to the city gate, or cast out into the plain as food for the dogs and jackals. Thus the punishment extends even beyond the limits which bound this bitter world, for Musulmans (Muslims) who are not buried have no right to enter the Prophet's Paradise. Since my whole soul revolts against such infamy, against such abominations as recent times, according to the judgment of all, present, I will no longer maintain my connection with the scene of such crimes." (He goes on to say that he has already asked for his discharge, but has not yet received an answer.) (E. G. Browne's "Materials for the Study of the Bábí Religion," pp. 267-71 and Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, pp. xlvii and 605)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "On that day, a spectacle was witnessed in the streets and bazaars of Tihran which the people can never forget. Even to this very day, it remains the topic of conversation; one still feels a shocking horror which the years have not been able to lessen. The people saw marching, between executioners, children and women with deep holes cut into their flesh in which lighted wicks were inserted. The victims were dragged with ropes and goaded on with whips. Children and women went forth singing this verse: 'In truth, we come from God and unto Him do we return.' Their voices were raised triumphant above the deep silence of the crowd, for the citizens of Tihran were neither mean nor great believers in Islam. When one of the victims fell to the ground and they prodded him up with bayonets, if the loss of blood which dripped from his wounds had left him any strength, he would begin to dance and to cry out with even greater**

enthusiasm: 'In truth, we come from God and unto Him do we return!' Some of the children expired on the way. The executioners would throw their bodies under the feet of their fathers and sisters, who proudly walked over them without giving it a second thought. When the cortege reached the place of execution near the New Gate, the victims were given the choice between life and abjuration of their faith; they were even subjected to every form of intimidation. One of the executioners conceived the idea of saying to a father that, unless he yielded, he would cut the throats of his two sons on his very breast. The sons were quite young, the oldest about fourteen. Covered with blood, their flesh scorched, they were listening stoically to the threats. The father replied, while laying himself down, that he was ready and the older of the boys, claiming a prior right, requested to be the first to die. It may be that the executioner denied him even that last comfort. At last, the tragedy was over and night fell upon a heap of formless bodies; the heads were tied in bundles to the posts of justice and the dogs on the outskirts of the city were crowding about. That day won for the Bábís a larger number of secret followers than much exhortation could have done." "As I have said above, the impression caused by the terrifying impassibility of the martyrs was deep and lasting. I have often heard eye witnesses describe the scenes of that fateful day, men close to the government, some even holding important positions. While listening to them, one could easily have believed that they were all Bábís, so great was their admiration for the events in which Islam played so inglorious a part, and so high a conception did they entertain of the resources, the hopes and the means of success of the new religion." (Comte de Gobineau's "Les Religions et les Philosophies dans l'Asie Centrale," pp. 248-250.)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "These executions were not merely criminal, but foolish. The barbarity of the persecutors defeated its own ends, and instead of inspiring terror, gave the martyrs and opportunity of exhibiting a heroic fortitude which has done more than any propaganda, however skillful, could have done to ensure the triumph of the cause for which they died...." "The impression produced by such exhibitions of courage and endurance was profound and lasting; nay, the faith which inspired the martyrs was often contagious, as the**

following incident shows. A certain Yazdi rough, noted for his wild and disorderly life, went to see the execution of some Bábís, perhaps to scoff at them. But when he saw with what calmness and steadfastness they met torture and death, his feelings underwent so great a revulsion that he rushed forward crying, 'Kill me too! I am also a Bábí!' And thus he continued to cry till he too was made a partaker in the doom he had come out only to gaze upon." (E. G. Browne's A Year amongst the Persians, pp. 111-112)

(Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 612)

The seven times of God's chastisement of the children of Israel, prophesied by Moses.

400. Moses' prophecy of seven times God's chastisement of the children of Israel. ✡ **Judaism: Leviticus 26:18 "And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins." Leviticus 26:19 "And I will break the pride of your power;" Leviticus 26:23 "And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me;" Leviticus 26:24 "Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins." Leviticus 26:25 "And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy." Leviticus 26:27 "And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me;" Leviticus 26:28 "Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins." Leviticus 26:29 "And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat." Leviticus 26:30 "And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you." Leviticus 26:31 "And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours." Leviticus 26:32 "And I will bring the land into desolation: and your**

enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it." Leviticus 26:33 "And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste." Here Moses prophesies that God will chastise and punish the children of Israel seven times for their disobedience and we find if we look in the book of judges that God does punish the children of Israel seven times for their disobedience:

1. ✡ Judaism: Judges 2:11 "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:" Judges 2:12 "And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger." Judges 2:13 "And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth." Judges 2:14 "And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies."

2. ✡ Judaism: Judges 3:7 "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgat the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves." Judges 3:8 "Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years."

3. ✡ Judaism: Judges 3:12 "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD."

4. ✡ Judaism: Judges 4:1 "And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead." Judges 4:2 "And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles." Judges 4:3 "And the children of Israel

cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel."

5. ✡ Judaism: Judges 6:1 "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years." Judges 6:2 "And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds."

6. ✡ Judaism: Judges 10:6 "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him." Judges 10:7 "And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon." Judges 10:8 "And that year they vexed and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years, all the children of Israel that were on the other side Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead."

7. ✡ Judaism: Judges 13:1 "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years."

God did punish the children of Israel seven times, in judges, for their disobedience, but this prophecy, like so many other prophecies found in the bible has more than one meaning, or I should say more than one application. Seven times also has a time application involved in the prophecy, a more hidden manner of fulfillment.

✡ JUDAISM: Deuteronomy 31:29 "For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands." Leviticus 26:18 "And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times

more for your sins.” God will punish Israel seven times more or seven times more in addition to the seven times He will have already punished Israel for her disobedience.

During the time of reign of King Manasseh, Manasseh, and Judah along with him, did great evil in the sight of God. ✡ Judaism: 2 Kings 21:1 “Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah.” 2 Kings 21:2 “And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.” 2 Kings 21:3 “For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.” 2 Kings 21:4 “And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name.” 2 Kings 21:5 “And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.” 2 Kings 21:6 “And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.” 2 Kings 21:7 “And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever:” 2 Kings 21:8 “Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them.” 2 Kings 21:9 “But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.” 2 Kings 21:10 “And the LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying,” 2 Kings 21:11 “Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols:” 2 Kings 21:12 “Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.” 2 Kings 21:13 “And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of

the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down." 2 Kings 21:14 "And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies;" 2 Kings 21:15 "Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day." 2 Kings 21:16 "Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD."

 **JUDAISM: Jeremiah 15:1 "Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth." Jeremiah 15:2 "And it shall come to pass, if they say unto thee, Whither shall we go forth? then thou shalt tell them, Thus saith the LORD; Such as are for death, to death; and such as are for the sword, to the sword; and such as are for the famine, to the famine; and such as are for the captivity, to the captivity." Jeremiah 15:3 "And I will appoint over them four kinds, saith the LORD: the sword to slay, and the dogs to tear, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the earth, to devour and destroy." Jeremiah 15:4 "And I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah king of Judah, for that which he did in Jerusalem." Jeremiah 15:5 "For who shall have pity upon thee, O Jerusalem? or who shall bemoan thee? or who shall go aside to ask how thou doest? 15:6 Thou hast forsaken me, saith the LORD, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting." Jeremiah 15:7 "And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children, I will destroy my people since they return not from their ways." Jeremiah 15:8 "Their widows are increased to me above the sand of the seas: I have brought upon them against the mother of the young men a spoiler at noonday: I have caused him to fall upon it suddenly, and terrors upon the city." Jeremiah 15:9 "She that hath borne seven languisheth: she hath given up the ghost; her sun is gone down while it was yet day: she hath been ashamed and confounded: and the residue of them will I**

deliver to the sword before their enemies, saith the LORD." Jeremiah 15:10 "Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast borne me a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth! I have neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury; yet every one of them doth curse me." Jeremiah 15:11 "The LORD said, Verily it shall be well with thy remnant; verily I will cause the enemy to entreat thee well in the time of evil and in the time of affliction." Jeremiah 15:12 "Shall iron break the northern iron and the steel?" 15:13 "Thy substance and thy treasures will I give to the spoil without price, and that for all thy sins, even in all thy borders." Jeremiah 15:14 "And I will make thee to pass with thine enemies into a land which thou knowest not: for a fire is kindled in mine anger, which shall burn upon you."

Manasseh did such evil and caused Jerusalem and Judah to do such evil in the sight of God that Judah was never free again, but was occupied for the duration of the prophecy until the ending of the time of the gentiles (see day of the gentiles). God, as Moses promised, punished the children of Israel seven times. It was not until the fulfillment of this prophecy, with the passage of seven years of prophecy, that this time came to an end. From the year beginning with the conquest of Judah by Babylon in 677 to 676 B.C. seven times or seven years of prophecy with each prophetic year equal to 360 days or 360 years of prophecy according to the bible that this time of punishment came to an end:

JUDAISM: Ezekiel 4:6 "I have appointed thee each day for a year." The prophetic month in the bible of that time was considered to be 30 days, so 12 months of 30 days equals 360 days for a year. The Egyptian and Babylonian calendars of those times both used 30 day months as well. If we calculate 7 times to equal seven 360 day years we come up with 2520 days or 2520 years. 7 x 360 = 2520 years. When we subtract 677 B.C. from 2520 years we get 1843 years or the year 1843 as the year for the completion of this seven times of punishment or the year 1844 since there is no zero year going from B.C. to A.D. We also know this is the year for the completion of this prophecy because the signing of the Edict of Toleration allowing the Jewish people legally back into the Holy Land, which was signed in March of 1844

(see day of the gentiles for more information). So, with the coming of the year 1844 we have the completion of the seven times of punishment of the Jews promised by Moses for their faithlessness with the declaration of the Báb in May of the year 1844.

Akká, the prison city by the sea.

401. Akká. Akká the prison city by the sea; is the prison to which Bahá'u'lláh and his family and follower were eventually banished to for years during most of the last years of their lives. This was foretold to us in the Holy Bible by Isaiah. ✡ **Judaism:** Isaiah "The excellency of **Carmel and Sharon**, they shall see the glory of the Lord… ((Which is the meaning of the title Baha'u'llah, (The Glory of God). Isaiah 35 (KJV) In another place in his book Isaiah repeats this same promise: "**Sharon** shall be a fold of flocks and the valley of **Achor** a place for the herds to lie down in for my people that have sought me." -Isaiah 65 (KJV) In these two passages, Isaiah has described a very specific area of Israel. He says that "the glory of the Lord" will come to 'Carmel', 'Sharon' and 'Achor'. The city which was known in ancient times as Achor (also spelled Acre), today is called Akka. The city of Akka is located at the foot of Mt. Carmel in Israel and both Akka and Mt. Carmel are situated on the plain of Sharon. As you can see, Isaiah was very specific about where the Messiah will appear. He said that the redeemer will come to Akka and Mt. Carmel." (Joel Smith)

Akká is a place where Baha'u'llah revealed the most Holy Book the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the book of God's Holy Laws; as well as many letters to the kings and rulers of the earth announcing God's mission on the earth as well as numerous tablets and letters to the friends of the faith as well as enemies of the faith. Hosea called Achor a door of hope: ✡ **Judaism: Hosea 2:15 "…..the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth….." And Isaiah tells us Achor is a place for the people who have sought God and a place herds lie down, i.e. people flock to in peace. Akká is a special place on this earth made so by the foot steps and actions of Bahá'u'lláh when he was there. Akká (Achor) became a door of hope to the world.**

Chebar see the Glory of the Lord.

402. Chebar see the Glory of the Lord, (Bahá'u'lláh). The river Chebar also known as the river Khabar is located west of Baghdad. ✡ Judaism: Ezekiel 1:1 "Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God." Ezekiel 1:3 "The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him." Ezekiel 1:28 "As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face," Ezekiel 3:22 "And the hand of the LORD was there upon me; and he said unto me, Arise, go forth into the plain, and I will there talk with thee." Ezekiel 3:23 "Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face." The Glory of the Lord stood by the river Chebar. We can easily conclude that Ezekiel is talking here about Bahá'u'lláh because Ezekiel tells us directly who he is talking about. The name Bahá'u'lláh means The Glory of God or The Glory of the Lord and Ezekiel states that he sees The Glory of the Lord standing by the river Chebar and out on the plain.

Child is born.

403. Child is born. ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 33:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 33:7 "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." When many Christians hear these two quotes from the 33rd chapter of Isaiah many think of Jesus Christ but many have to admit that Jesus Christ didn't fulfill this prophecy when he was on this earth. He didn't come with a

new government on his shoulders, in fact, he did not even get involved with the governments there, at that time, saying his kingdom wasn't of this earth. ✝ Christianity: John 18:36 "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world." Nor was Jesus known as The Wonderful Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, or The Prince of Peace. As far as being the Prince of Peace as some Christians call him, Jesus didn't claim to be a bringer of peace, but said just the opposite. Jesus said he didn't come to bring peace to the world but the sword. ✝ Christianity: Matthew 10:34 "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." Luke 12:51 "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:" Luke 12:52 "For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three."

There are many reasons why Jesus didn't fulfill this prophecy during his first time on this earth. That is because he would fulfill this prophecy during his second coming, which is the only way it could happen.

One of the many titles Bahá'u'lláh was known as was the return of Jesus Christ (see new name for more information). Bahá'u'lláh was also known as The Wonderful Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace; and as for having the government on his shoulder. Baha'u'llah has brought a new form of government for the future consisting of Local, national and international spiritual assemblies or what is called the Universal House of Justice and as the name implies justice will go out of it's doors thus fulfilling ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 33:7 "his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever."

Also, one of Bahá'u'lláh's titles was the Prince of Peace, which is for a very good reason; Bahá'u'lláh has brought a peace plan that will eventually end all war and bring peace to the earth forever: ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 33:7 "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end." So again he fulfills another part of the prophecy of Isaiah.

Bahá'u'lláh outlined a plan for governments of the earth to rise up in unison to put down an aggressive nation so national armaments can be greatly reduced there by reducing the burden of expense on the people and security around the world will be established. Next Bahá'u'lláh plans for a most great peace in which a world tribunal will be set in place to keep the world governments in check thereby insuring peace throughout the world or as Isaiah promises peace without end. So, as one can see Jesus Christ didn't fulfill this prophecy of Isaiah during his first coming, but Bahá'u'lláh is fulfilling it with his second coming (see oneness of the prophets).

From fortress city.

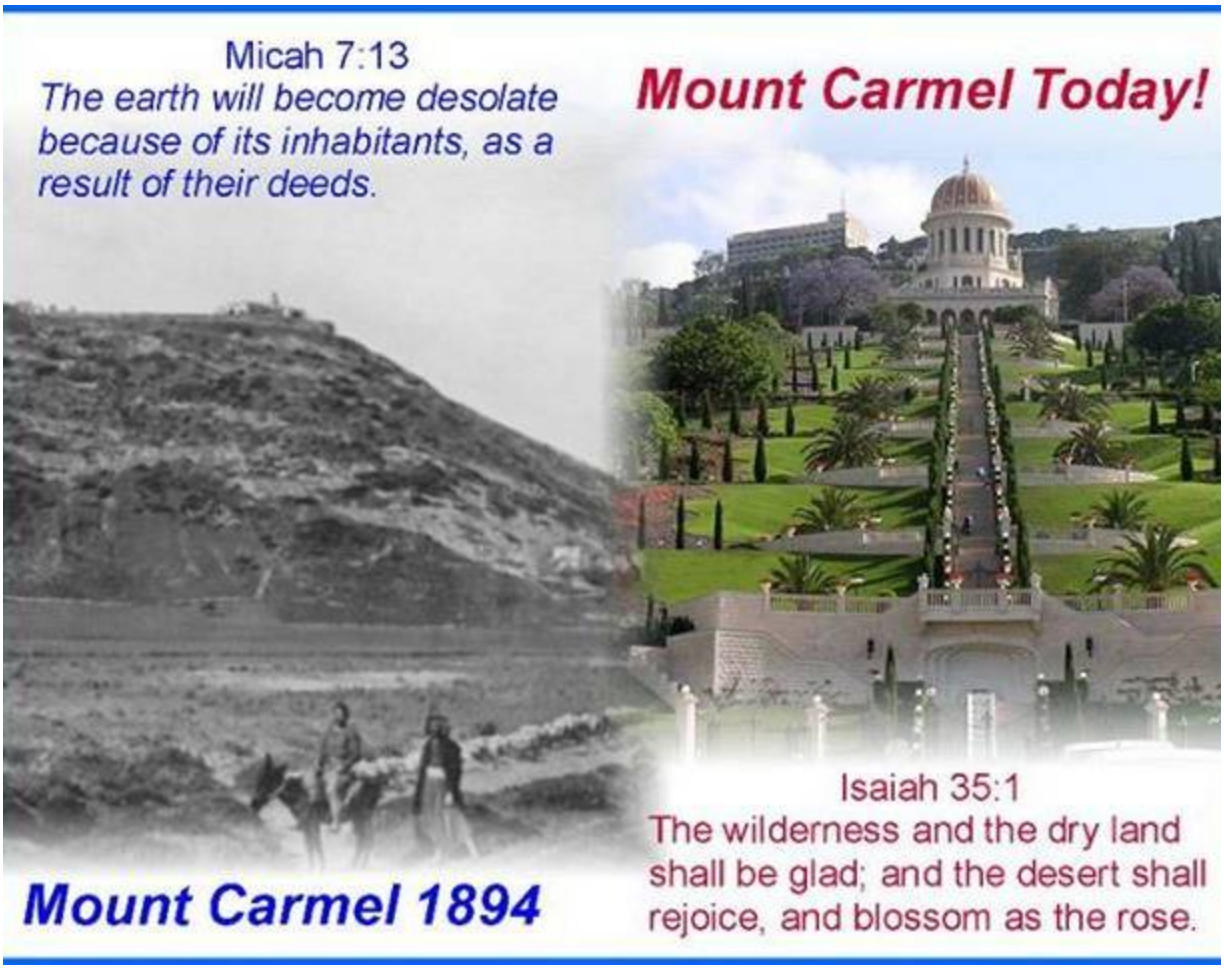
404. From fortress city. ✡ Judaism: Micah 7:12 "In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain." Bahá'u'lláh came from Persia part of the old Assyrian Empire thus fulfilling part of the prophecy from Micah he shall come from Assyria Micah 7:12 "In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria." Bahá'u'lláh was also later exiled from Baghdad to the fortified city of Constantinople and then later after this he was exiled by the Persian and Turkish authorities in an attempt to destroy Bahá'u'lláh and his faith to the fortified prison city of Akká. Bahá'u'lláh thus fulfilled this part of the prophecy of Micah: Micah 7:12 "he shall come…. from the fortified cities;" though this happened by him being exiled through no choice of his own.

When Bahá'u'lláh was later released from Akká, the fortress city, one of the places he would go to for peace was to a little island in the river called Na'mayn thus fulfilling another part of Micah's prophecy: Micah 7:12 "he shall come….from the fortress even to the river." Also, as part of Bahá'u'lláh's exile Bahá'u'lláh was exiled from Baghdad to Constantinople going by way of the Black Sea for part of the route and later when he was exiled to Akká he was put on a boat on the Mediterranean Sea during the last part of the trip thereby fulfilling

another part of Micah's prophecy: Judaism: Micah 7:12 "he shall come…. from sea to sea," which again is something the Turkish authorities forced upon Bahá'u'lláh. But that isn't all of this prophecy from Micah about Bahá'u'lláh: Micah 7:12 "And he shall come…. from mountain to mountain." When Baha'u'llah was exiled in Baghdad Bahá'u'lláh took some time to himself, just as Christ did, and lived in the Kurdistani mountains on a mountain called Sar-Galu. Later on in his life, when Baha'u'llah was released from Akká, Baha'u'llah pitched a tent on the side of Mount Carmel thus fulfilling the prophecy from Micah and one from Isaiah as well: Isaiah 35:2 "the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God." Bahá'u'lláh's name means The Glory of God or The Glory of the Lord, so by Bahá'u'lláh pitching his tent on the side of Mount Carmel, Carmel saw The Glory of the Lord, and Bahá'u'lláh also went from mountain to mountain just as Micah promised he would; but this isn't the end of Micah's prophecies. Micah 7:13 "Notwithstanding the land shall be desolate because of them that dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings." When Bahá'u'lláh came to the prison city of Akká the city was so desolate that it was said that if a bird was to fly over Akká it would die from the foulness of the place.

BAHA'I FAITH: "So foul, insanitary, and filled with disease was the land that a proverb written about that land said: 'If a bird flies over 'Akká, it dies!' It was a land filled with typhoid, malaria, diphtheria, and dysentery. [William Sears, Thief in the Night, Part 3, p. 124]. It was called 'the metropolis of the owl,' [cited God Passes By, Shoghi Effendi, p. 186.], a land that was, in the words of an historian of the time, 'desolate and barren'."

(William Sears, Thief in the Night).



JUDAISM: Micah 7:14 "Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old." When Bahá'u'lláh came to Mount Carmel he pitched his tent in a small stand of cypress trees on the side of that stony, barren mountain. It was in this small wood in the midst of Carmel Seated in that tiny clump of trees that Bahá'u'lláh poured out his teachings to his followers. He fed the people of his flock with his words of love and kindness as in the days of old. Micah 7:15 "According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things." It took 40 years for Moses to bring the Israelites out of the land of Egypt to their new home Joshua 5:6 "For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD sware that he

would not shew them the land, which the LORD sware unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey." Bahá'u'lláh's mission on this earth lasted forty years, from August 1852 in a prison in Tihran called the Black Pit:"

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The dark, foul-smelling, subterranean dungeon in Tihran where Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned for four months in 1852 and where Bahá'u'lláh first received his mission from God."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 253)

Until May 1892 upon his death in the holy land; so again Bahá'u'lláh fulfills this prophecy from Micah: ✡ Judaism: Micah 7:15 "According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvelous things," by his mission on this earth lasting for forty years, the time it took Moses to bring the Israelites to the holy land.

His mission on this earth will last 40 years.

405. His mission on this earth will last 40 years. ✡ Judaism: Micah 7:15 "According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvelous things." It took 40 years for Moses to bring the Israelites out of the land of Egypt to their new home Joshua 5:6 "For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: unto whom the LORD sware that he would not shew them the land, which the LORD sware unto their fathers that he would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey." Bahá'u'lláh's mission on this earth lasted forty years, from August 1852 in a prison in Tihran called the Black Pit".

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(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 253)

Till May 1892 upon his death in the holy land.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Since the ascension of Bahá'u'lláh in 1892, in the Holy Land, the rolling up of the old order has become the daily experience."

(Baha'u'llah, The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. ix)

So again Bahá'u'lláh fulfills this prophecy from Micah: Judaism: Micah 7:15 "According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvelous things," by his mission on this earth lasting for forty years, the time it took Moses to bring the Israelites to the holy land.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh passed forty years of His life in prison and exile in order that He might upraise the banner of the oneness of the world of men."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 36)

Wars and rumors of wars and earthquakes, in divers places.

406. Wars and rumors of wars and earthquakes, in divers places. Christianity: Matthew 24:3 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matthew 24:6 "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." Matthew 24:7 "For nation shall

rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."

It seem like there have been wars and rumors of wars throughout human history, but in the mid eighteen hundreds and beyond there have been an exceptional numbers of wars all around the world, involving numerous countries and a never ending series of wars: China vs. England ending in 1842, England, France and Turkey vs. Russia 1854, Sepoy mutiny 1857-1858, France and Italy vs. Austria 1859, the American civil war between the north and south 1861-1865, the Franco Prussian war 1870-1871, the Russian Turkish war 1877-1878, and four different wars alone during the 1890s China vs. Japan, Turkey vs. Greece, Spain vs. United States and the Boer war in which China was invaded by all the major world powers, and that is just the wars that accrued in the mid 1800s to the end of the of the 1800s. If this doesn't constitute wars and rumors of wars it would seem like nothing would. There has been such a constant barge of wars and almost wars since the mid 1800s that it seems like the world is engulfed in a never ending conflict encompassing the whole globe including two world wars, a cold war and the constant threat of war. So, if this doesn't constitute the time spoken of by Christ saying there will be wars and rumors of wars what would?

Earthquakes: "Portugal, that of November 1, 1755, takes first rank, as it does also, in some respects, among all recorded earthquakes...In six minutes 60,000 people perished.' In that very same year, 1755, another earthquake struck in the land of Persia, killing 40,000 persons. In the 65 years that elapsed between A.D.

1800 and A.D. 1865, there occurred (within the limits of the old Roman Empire alone) no less than 35 great and disastrous earthquakes, arresting the attention of the historian...In the Scandinavian Peninsulas and in Iceland, from A.D. 1700 to 1850, (there have been) 224; in Spain and Portugal 178; In France, Belgium and Holland 600...On the Italian Peninsula and the Eastern Mediterranean, upwards of 800 earthquakes have occurred within the period of fifty years between 1800 and 1850."

(William Sears, Thief in the Night)

If this doesn't constitute the time spoken of by Christ saying there will be earthquakes, in divers places I don't see what would?

Brother against brother.

407. Brother against brother. It seems to be very common, when a manifestation from God appears in the world there is great commotion and upheaval in human affairs. One of the biggest upheavals is found within the human family. Father against son, brother against brother etc..... It is very common for family to turn on one another when God's new word is revealed. The bible clearly warns us of this: Judaism: Micah 7:6 "For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house."

CHRISTIANITY: Mark 13:3 "And as he (Jesus) sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately," Mark 13:4 "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?" Mark 13:12 "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death." Luke 12:52 "For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three." Luke 12:53 "The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."

The Bahá'í Writings tells us of family turning against family, even to the point of killing one another and wishing their souls trapped in hell. All because a new faith came into the world that told people to investigate truth for themselves and warned the people about

following superstition and blind imitation of unsubstantiated ancestral beliefs of the past.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Men are killing their brothers, believing this to be the cause of salvation, believing that such work is approved by God, believing that those whom they kill will be sent to hell."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 101)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Hujjat, along with many of his companions, was besieged by a host of soldiers in Zanjan. The governor of Zanjan sent a crier through the streets saying, 'All who throw in their lot with Hujjat will be destroyed, and their wives and children exposed to misery and shame!' This warning divided the city into two camps. There were pathetic sights of families being separated by their belief or disbelief in the Báb. Fathers turned away from their sons, women from their husbands, children from their mothers. Every tie of worldly affection seemed to be dissolved on that day. Zanjan became a city of panic. Men ran frantically to and fro trying to collect their wives and children and to persuade them to stand with them. Families divided their belongings and their children. Many wept over what they had to abandon. Whole houses were deserted. When a man, a woman, or a child would tear itself from its family or friends and rush to the support of Hujjat, a cry of joy would go up from one camp, and a moan of despair from the other. It was such a day as foretold by Christ for the days of the end when 'brother shall deliver up brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death.'"**

(William Sears, Release the Sun, p. 160)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This is the day when man, not content with having abandoned his brother, sacrifices his substance in order to shed the blood of his nearest kinsman!"**

The Bab: (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 566)

The end of the world is at hand.

408. The end of the world is at hand. In the bible the terms end of the world and latter days are used to denote the end of a spiritual cycle from one messenger to another and not the end of the physical world (see Latter days or last days or the end of the world for more information). Example, Paul tells us in Hebrews that the time that Christ was on this earth was the end of the world for that time ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 9:26 "For then must he (Jesus) often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." So, from this statement from Paul we know that by the term end of the world the end of the physical world is not meant, for the physical world did not end during the time of Jesus. It is the same when talking about the term the last days: Hebrews 1:2 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds." 1 Peter 1:19 "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" 1 Peter 1:20 "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you," 1 Peter 1:21 "Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God." 1 Peter 4:6 "For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit." 1 Peter 4:7 "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." 1 John 2:18 "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time," so by the last days was not meant the last days of the earth. Clearly the physical last days of the earth are not meant to be interpreted as the end of the physical world, by the statements last days and end of the world; but the end of a heavenly cycle of revelation.

In the last days, latter days, the end of the world or the end of the cycle of the teachings of the manifestation (God's holy messenger), we are to have a new manifestation from God who is to be a world redeemer. This day and time is the time of the last days and the end of the world. We know this by reading what Daniel the prophet has to say about the end. ✡ Judaism: Daniel 10:14 "Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days." Daniel 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4 "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased," at the time of the end. I don't think there is anyone who wouldn't agree that this has happened. In today's world people truly are going to and fro in a mad rush all over the world, and one can hardly argue that there hasn't been a tremendous increase in the acquisition of knowledge. Since the year of 1844 knowledge has seemed to increase exponentially with the passing of time to the point that knowledge seems to be doubling itself within the passing of only a few years. I would say that this prophecy from Daniel about travel and increased knowledge has been fulfilled with the coming of the Bahá'í Faith.

✡ JUDAISM: Isaiah 11:11 "And it shall come to pass in that day (the last days), that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea." Isaiah 11:12 "And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

With the Jewish revolt in 132 A.D. the Jewish armies were crushed and the Jewish people were lead away captive onto the four corners of the earth: ✝ Christianity: Luke 21:24 "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

In the time of the end or the last days or the end of the day of the gentiles the Jewish people will start to be gathered again in the Holy Land according to the will of God: ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 27:12 "And it shall come to pass in that day, (the last days) -- ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel." Isaiah 43:4 "Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life." Isaiah 43:5 "Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; 43:6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; 43:7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him." This gathering of the Jewish people began with the signing of the Edict of Toleration on March 21st, 1844, by the Turkish government, which marks the ending of the day of gentiles (see day of the gentiles for more information), which was to happen in the last days or the end of the world; so this again demonstrates to us the last days began again in the year 1844, like Daniel's time of the end commenced around the year 1844.

And these again, are the last days and times, spoken of by both Isaiah and Micah, in The Old Testament of The Christian Bible, when it states: ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 2:1 "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem." Isaiah 2:2 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." Isaiah 2:3 "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD." Isaiah 2:4 "And He (God and Baha'u'llah), shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Isaiah 2:5 "O house of Jacob, come ye (then), and let us walk in the light of The LORD." (King James Bible)

 **JUDAISM: Micah 4:1 "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it." Micah 4:2 "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from." Micah 4:3 "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Micah 4:4 "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it." Micah 4:5 "For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever." Micah 4:6 "In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; 4:7 And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever."**

As I said, these are, in fact the last days and times, spoken of by both Isaiah and Micah. As demonstrated earlier, God started gathering the lost Jewish people back into the Holy land with the signing of the Edict of Toleration on March 21st, 1844, thus ending the day of gentiles. But as for the meaning of the rest of this prophecy; that is about the Bahá'í Universal House of Justice that is situated on Mount Carmel in Haifa Israel. In this day and time people gather from all nations of the world and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD," and walk on the paths there. The laws also go forth into the world from there and the promise of future world peace has been outlined for the future world to achieve in a later promised time. The beginnings of The Bahá'í Faith started on May 23, 1844 with the declaration of the young Báb and the beginning of the Bábí Religion, so again, the last days and the end of the world or the end of the spiritual cycle seems again to be in the year 1844; which is also coincidentally the year that the abomination of desolation ended and the Christian

religion was preached and published around the world (see three main prophecies of the second coming of Christ).

Elsewhere Jesus and Paul tell us:

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 13:19 "For in those days (the last days, end of the world) shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be:" 2 Timothy 3:1 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "BAHA'U'LLAH arose as the one who was expected, thousands accepted him and at once came under his banner."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Dreadful persecution ensued and more than twenty thousand martyrs joyfully gave up property and life rather than renounce the faith which they recognized as divine truth. At such variance were his teachings with the creed-bound world about him that BAHA'U'LLAH, with his family and followers, was banished to Bagdad, to Constantinople, to Adrianople and finally to the penal colony of Akká in Syria."**

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 5)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "His prediction came true, -- Hujjat, along with many of his companions, was besieged by a host of soldiers in Zanjan. The governor of Zanjan sent a crier through the streets saying, 'All who throw in their lot with Hujjat will be destroyed, and their wives and children exposed to misery and shame!' This warning divided the city into two camps. There were pathetic sights of families being separated by their belief or disbelief in the Báb. Fathers turned away from their sons, women from their husbands, children from their mothers. Every tie of worldly affection seemed to be dissolved on that day. Zanjan became a city of panic. Men ran frantically to and fro trying to collect their wives and children and to persuade them to stand with them. Families divided their belongings and their children.**

Many wept over what they had to abandon. Whole houses were deserted. When a man, a woman, or a child would tear itself from its family or friends and rush to the support of Hujjat, a cry of joy would go up from one camp, and a moan of despair from the other. It was such a day as foretold by Christ for the days of the end when 'brother shall deliver up brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death.'"

(William Sears, Release the Sun, p. 160)

BAHA'I FAITH: "In Persia the early believers in this revelation met with the utmost opposition, persecution and cruelty at the hands of their fellow countrymen, but they faced all calamities and ordeals with sublime heroism, firmness and patience. Their baptism was in their own blood, for many thousands of them perished as martyrs; while thousands more were beaten, imprisoned, stripped of their possessions, driven from their homes or otherwise ill-treated. For sixty years or more anyone in Persia who dared to own allegiance to the Báb or Bahá'u'lláh did so at the risk of his property, his freedom and even his life. Yet this determined and ferocious opposition could not more check the progress of the Movement than a cloud of dust could keep the sun from rising."

(Bahá'í Faith, Dr. J.E. Esslemont, Baha'u'llah and the New Era, p. 252

BAHA'I FAITH: "The present reign, condemned criminals (what they considered the Bábís to be; to be) crucified, blown from guns (the mouths of cannons), buried alive, impaled, shod like horses, torn asunder by being bound to the heads of two trees bent together and then allowed to spring back to their natural position, converted into human torches, flayed while living." (Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. xxviii)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Tihran, August 29, 1852. Dear Friend, My last letter of the 20th inst. mentioned the attempt on the King. I will now

communicate to you the result of the interrogation to which the two criminals were subjected. In spite of the terrible tortures inflicted, the examination extorted no comprehensive confession; the lips of the fanatics remained closed, even when by means of red-hot pincers and limb-rending screws they sought to discover the chief conspirator.... But follow me, my friend, you who lay claim to a heart and European ethics, follow me to the unhappy ones who, with gouged-out eyes, must eat, on the scene of the deed, without any sauce, their own amputated ears; or whose teeth are torn out with inhuman violence by the hand of the executioner; or whose bare skulls are simply crushed by blows from a hammer; or where the bazar is illuminated with unhappy victims, because on right and left the people dig deep holes in their breasts and shoulders and insert burning wicks in the wounds. I saw some dragged in chains through the bazar preceded by a military band, in whom these wicks had burned so deep that now the fat flickered convulsively in the wound like a newly-extinguished lamp. Not seldom it happens that the unwearying ingenuity of the Orientals leads to fresh tortures. They will skin the soles of the Bábí's feet, soak the wounds in boiling oil, shoe the foot like the hoof of a horse, and compel the victim to run. No cry escaped from the victim's breast; the torment is endured in dark silence by the numbed sensation of the fanatic; now he must run; the body cannot endure what the soul has endured; he falls. Give him the coup de grace! Put him out of his pain! No! The executioner swings the whip, and -- I myself have had to witness it -- the unhappy victim of hundredfold tortures and runs! This is the beginning of the end. As for the end itself, they hang the scorched and perforated bodies by their hands and feet to a tree head downwards, and now every Persian may try his marksmanship to heart's content from a fixed but not too proximate distance on the noble quarry placed at his disposal. I saw corpses torn by nearly 150 bullets.... When I read over again what I have written I am overcome by the thought that those who are with you in our dearly beloved Austria may doubt the full truth of the picture, and accuse me of exaggeration. Would to God that I had not lived to see it! But by the duties of my profession I was unhappily often, only too often, a witness of these abominations. At present I never leave my house, in order not to meet with fresh scenes of horror. After their death the Bábís are hacked in two and either nailed to the city gate, or cast out

into the plain as food for the dogs and jackals. Thus the punishment extends even beyond the limits which bound this bitter world, for Musulmans (Muslims) who are not buried have no right to enter the Prophet's Paradise. Since my whole soul revolts against such infamy, against such abominations as recent times, according to the judgment of all, present, I will no longer maintain my connection with the scene of such crimes." (He goes on to say that he has already asked for his discharge, but has not yet received an answer.) (E. G. Browne's "Materials for the Study of the Bábí Religion," pp. 267-71 and Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, pp. xlvii and 605)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "On that day, a spectacle was witnessed in the streets and bazaars of Tihran which the people can never forget. Even to this very day, it remains the topic of conversation; one still feels a shocking horror which the years have not been able to lessen. The people saw marching, between executioners, children and women with deep holes cut into their flesh in which lighted wicks were inserted. The victims were dragged with ropes and goaded on with whips. Children and women went forth singing this verse: 'In truth, we come from God and unto Him do we return.' Their voices were raised triumphant above the deep silence of the crowd, for the citizens of Tihran were neither mean nor great believers in Islam. When one of the victims fell to the ground and they prodded him up with bayonets, if the loss of blood which dripped from his wounds had left him any strength, he would begin to dance and to cry out with even greater enthusiasm: 'In truth, we come from God and unto Him do we return!' Some of the children expired on the way. The executioners would throw their bodies under the feet of their fathers and sisters, who proudly walked over them without giving it a second thought. When the cortege reached the place of execution near the New Gate, the victims were given the choice between life and abjuration of their faith; they were even subjected to every form of intimidation. One of the executioners conceived the idea of saying to a father that, unless he yielded, he would cut the throats of his two sons on his very breast. The sons were quite young, the oldest about fourteen. Covered with blood, their flesh scorched, they were listening stoically to the threats. The father replied, while laying himself down, that he was ready and**

the older of the boys, claiming a prior right, requested to be the first to die. It may be that the executioner denied him even that last comfort. At last, the tragedy was over and night fell upon a heap of formless bodies; the heads were tied in bundles to the posts of justice and the dogs on the outskirts of the city were crowding about. That day won for the Bábís a larger number of secret followers than much exhortation could have done." "As I have said above, the impression caused by the terrifying impassibility of the martyrs was deep and lasting. I have often heard eye witnesses describe the scenes of that fateful day, men close to the government, some even holding important positions. While listening to them, one could easily have believed that they were all Bábís, so great was their admiration for the events in which Islam played so inglorious a part, and so high a conception did they entertain of the resources, the hopes and the means of success of the new religion." (Comte de Gobineau's "Les Religions et les Philosophies dans l'Asie Centrale," pp. 248-250.)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "These executions were not merely criminal, but foolish. The barbarity of the persecutors defeated its own ends, and instead of inspiring terror, gave the martyrs and opportunity of exhibiting a heroic fortitude which has done more than any propaganda, however skillful, could have done to ensure the triumph of the cause for which they died...." "The impression produced by such exhibitions of courage and endurance was profound and lasting; nay, the faith which inspired the martyrs was often contagious, as the following incident shows. A certain Yazdi rough, noted for his wild and disorderly life, went to see the execution of some Bábís, perhaps to scoff at them. But when he saw with what calmness and steadfastness they met torture and death, his feelings underwent so great a revulsion that he rushed forward crying, 'Kill me too! I am also a Bábí!' And thus he continued to cry till he too was made a partaker in the doom he had come out only to gaze upon." (E. G. Browne's A Year amongst the Persians, pp. 111-112)**

(Shoghi Effendi, The Dawn-Breakers, p. 612)

Clearly the butchery of that day and time was like none the world had ever witnessed before and on such a large scale; even whole cities and countries were involved.

And

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Peter 3:1 "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance;" 2 Peter 3:2 "That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour; 2 Peter 3:3 "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days (the symbolic end of the world), scoffers, walking after their own lusts," 2 Peter 3:4 "And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 2 Peter 3:5 "For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: 2 Timothy 3:1 "This know also, that in the last days (the symbolic end of the world) perilous times shall come." 3:2 "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3:3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good," 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;" 3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."**

This is going on in this world of today, anyone should be able to see this just watching the news of today.

But again, we are not actually looking for a real true end of the physical world, but the end of the cycle of a heavenly message from God to mankind, because:  Christianity: Ephesians 3:20 "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without

end. Amen." Judaism: Exodus 15:18 "The LORD shall reign for ever and ever." Christianity: Luke 1:32 "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." 1:54 "He hath helpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;" 1:55 "As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever." 1 John 2:17 "he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." Hebrews 1:8 "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom." 1:9 "Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."

Clearly the world is not going to be destroyed any time soon but will go on in these last days or symbolic end of the world that is the ending of a heavenly spiritual message cycle for mankind and will eventually lead to the peace humanity is promised:

We find, in the Bahá'í Writings, explanations about the biblical terms last days or end of the world and why these terms get used frequently in the scriptures by many different people. In the Bahá'í Writings we find that the terms last days or end of the world are often used to speak of the end of a spiritual cycle and the beginning of another and not the real end of the physical world.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Each of the Divine Manifestations has likewise a cycle, and during the cycle his laws and commandments prevail and are performed. When his cycle is completed by the appearance of a new Manifestation, a new cycle begins. In this way cycles begin, end, and are renewed,"

(Bahá'í Faith, Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 54)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Throughout your lives ye follow your religion in order to attract the good-pleasure of God, yet on the Last Day ye shut

yourselves out from God and turn away from Him Who is your Promised One."

(The Bab, Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 140)

We find that the end of the world or the last days is used by many different biblical prophets and many different religions to prepare the future generations for the events that will be happening to them.

These prophets are also prophesying of the coming of the next prophet and the ushering in of a new prophetic cycle. Jacob did this towards the end of his life to prepare the way for the coming of Moses: ✡ Judaism: Genesis 49:1 "And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days."

Moses in turn did this same thing to help prepare the way for Jesus Christ: ✡ Judaism: Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me;" Deuteronomy 31:29 "For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands."

If this is not thought provoking enough, we look again in the New Testament, in Hebrews, and find that Christ brought about the last days with his advent. ✝ Christianity: Hebrews 1:1 God, "who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets," Hebrews 1:2 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;" And if this was not clear enough proof that the advent of Jesus Christ ushered in a new heavenly cycle thereby bringing about the last days or the end of the cycle of the dispensation of Moses, Peter and John also reiterate on this theme also claiming that Jesus brought about the last days of the cycle of Moses with his advent on this earth: ✝ Christianity: 1 Peter 1:19 "But with the precious blood of

Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" 1 Peter 1:20 "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you," 1 John 2:18 "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." John and Peter seem pretty clear on this, with the advent of Jesus Christ's message to mankind, the impetus of one heavenly cycle, came to a close with the dawning of another progressive heavenly cycle to mankind.

Also, taking this train of reasoning a step further we find that not only did Jesus of Nazareth usher in the last days on earth with his coming, but he also brought about the end of the world as they knew it by his sacrifice. Christianity: Hebrews 9:26 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Here it clearly states that Jesus' death was during the end of the world, but as we are now living and breathing, it is clearly easy to see that the term used here, end of the world, clearly was not meant to be a physical, literal event, but a spiritual, symbolic event denoting, not the physical end of the world, but symbolically the spiritual ending of heavenly events. We also find this kind of spiritual symbolism used in the gospel of Thomas: Christianity: Thomas 2:51 "His (Jesus') disciples said to Him, 'When will the repose of the dead come about, and when will the new world come?' He said to them, 'What you look forward to has already come, but you do not recognize it.'" (The Gospel of Thomas)

. The coming of the new earth and ending of the old had already happened but they did not recognize it. Surly, this spiritual statement of the ending of the old and the coming of the new world along with the other statements from Paul and Christ should have all kinds of warning alarms going off inside your heads, saying these statements from Paul and Christ, and John and Peter, and all the rest of the prophets of old, are not to be taken literally. These events are spiritually discerned and should be looked at with a spiritual non-literal kind of examining and reasoning frame of mind.

JUDAISM: Esdras 2:34 "And therefore I say unto you, O ye heathen, that hear and understand, look for your Shepherd, he shall give you everlasting rest; for he is nigh at hand, that shall come in the end of the world." (Deuterocanonical Apocrypha, Esdras 2 (Ezra 4))

Christ, in-turn, when he was confronted with this question of the end of the world and the coming of the next prophet he answered thus: Christianity: Matthew 24:3 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" 24:4 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you." Matthew 24:5 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Matthew 24:13 "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

Not only was Christ asked, by his disciples, about the ending of the old world, but as we saw in Thomas, He was also asked, by them, about the coming of the new world? And Christ's answer to them was not the answer of a servant of God who was anticipating the real physical end of the world, but the answer of one who looked for life to go on:

In other words, not only was the spiritual cycle ended with the spiritual end of the old world order, but, by Jesus Christ's advent of a new dispensation, Christ brought about the coming of the new world as well; or he ushered in the new world order, or cycle, by revealing his new message to the world. And God's message for mankind will be, it seems, without end: Christianity: Ephesians 3:20 "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," Ephesians 3:21 "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." The spiritual world without end, or in other words, man will never stop learning unto eternity. And John, the last Apostle of Christ, is his cryptic, symbolical work the book of Revelations, warned of the advent of new dispensations prophesying the coming of

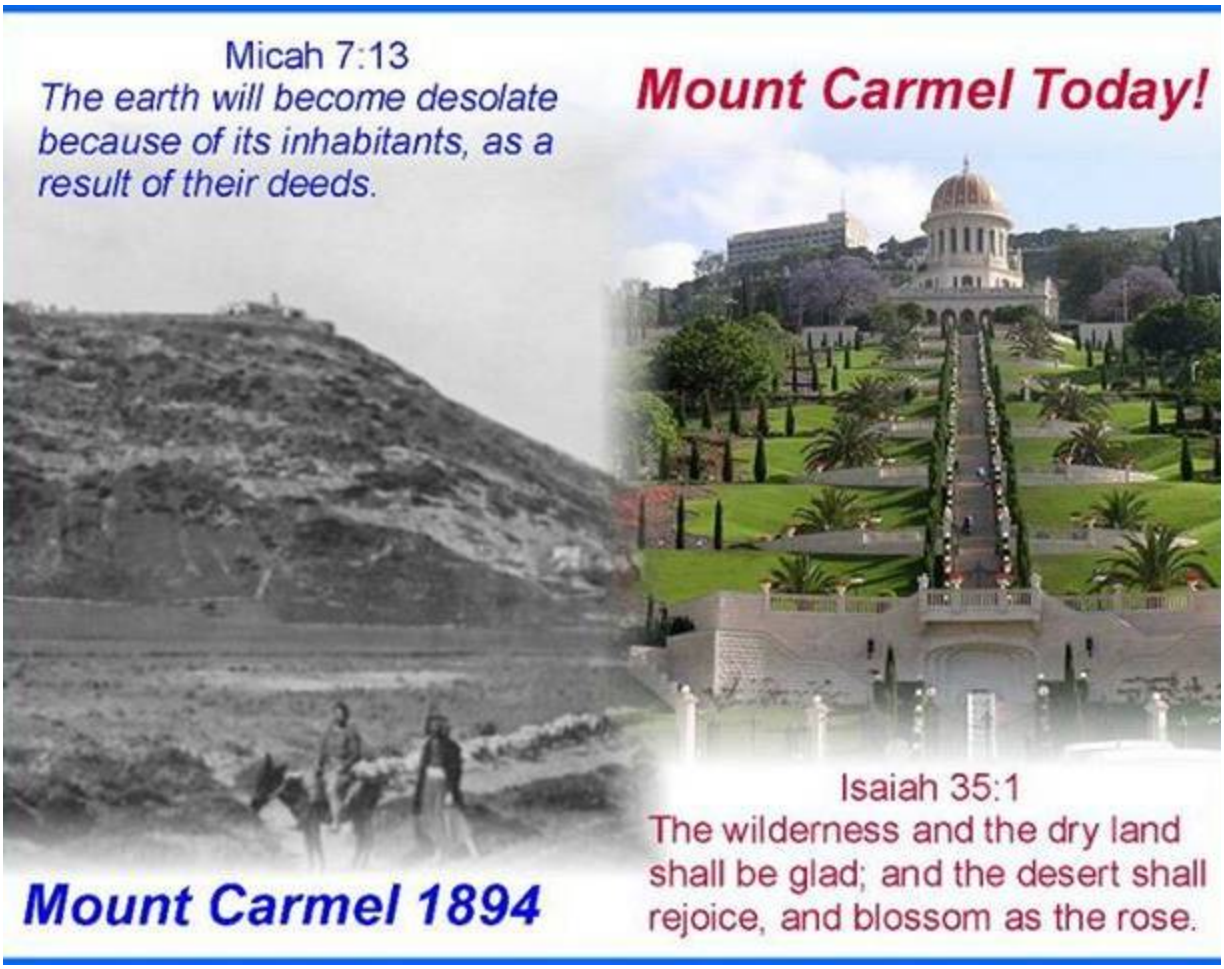
Muhammad, The Báb and Bahá'u'lláh so dynamic and encompassing was his work.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It is this Primal Will which appeareth resplendent in every Prophet and speaketh forth in every revealed Book. It knoweth no beginning, inasmuch as the First deriveth its firstness from It; and knoweth no end, for the Last oweth its lastness unto It."**

(The Bab, Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 126)

So

Isaiah 27:1 "In that day (the days of the end) the LORD, He shall make peace with me," and 27:6 "He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: (and) Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit." 35:1 "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."



Bahá'u'lláh and Jesus Christ standing beside God.

409. <u>Bahá'u'lláh and Jesus Christ standing beside God</u>. Stephen, being full of the Holy Ghost, looks up into heaven and sees Baha'u'llah (whose name means The Glory of God) standing right beside Christ on the right hand side of God.

<u>CHRISTIANITY</u>: <u>Acts</u> 7:55 "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and <u>saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God</u>." Here Stephen sees Bahá'u'lláh and Christ standing together with God in heaven, on the right hand of God. Stephen openly acknowledges the two but differentiates Christ from

Bahá'u'lláh as separate entities. What he sees is Christ with Bahá'u'lláh and this is important. Bahá'u'lláh is with Christ in that Bahá'u'lláh is the return of Christ for this day. So, symbolically Christ and Bahá'u'lláh are together in that Bahá'u'lláh is furthering Christ's mission here, by furthering God's revelation on this earth. (see He shall have a new name for more information).

The Glory of God the Father.

410. The Glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:11 "And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the (glory of God) the Father." Where Jesus was known as the son, one of Bahá'u'lláh's titles was the father, so the Glory of God is the father, (the glory of God the Father). And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. As a Bahá'í one of the things we do on becoming a Bahá'í is accept Jesus Christ. So, on becoming a Bahá'í we confess that Jesus Christ is Lord through Bahá'u'lláh the Glory of God the father.

Bahá'u'lláh (the Glory of God) was the light of the city.

411. Bahá'u'lláh (the Glory of God) was the light of the city. ✝ **Christianity: Revelations 21:10 "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God," Revelations 21:11 "Having the (glory of God): and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;" Revelations 21:23 "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the (glory of God did lighten it)."**

Baha'u'llah whose name means The Glory of God in Persian was the word of God made flesh on this earth. The Holy City New Jerusalem was the heavenly law and the heavenly religion descending from the heaven of God to mankind.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The descent of the New Jerusalem denoteth a heavenly Law, that Law which is the guarantor of human happiness and the effulgence of the world of God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 59)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "New Jerusalem is the heavenly religion which secures the prosperity of the human world and is the effulgence of the illumination of the realm of God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 381)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The light of the word of God, which was made flesh in the holy person of Baha'u'llah (The Glory of God), did lighten the Holy City in that Baha'u'llah revealed the heavenly law of God and the heavenly religion of God to mankind thereby bringing the light of the word of God to the holy city and to mankind."**

"Praise be to God, in this day the light of the Word of God has shone forth upon all regions,"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 296)

 **ISLAM: 69. "And the Earth will shine with the glory of its Lord."**

(The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 39)

 **JUDAISM: Zechariah 2:3 "And, behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him," 2:4 "And said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein:" 2:5 "For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be The Glory in the midst of her."**

JUDAISM: Isaiah 60:18 "Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise." Isaiah 60:19 "The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory (The Glory of God)." Isaiah 60:20 "Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended." Isaiah 60:21 "Thy people also shall be all righteous."

Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

Carmel and Sharon shall see The Glory of the Lord and the wilderness shall blossom.

412. Carmel and Sharon shall see The Glory of the Lord and the wilderness shall blossom. Judaism: Isaiah 27:1 "In that day (the days of the end times) the LORD, He shall make peace with me," and 27:6 "He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: (and) Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit." Isaiah 35:1 "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." Isaiah 35:2 "It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the (glory of the LORD), and the excellency of our God." Isaiah 35:4 "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you."

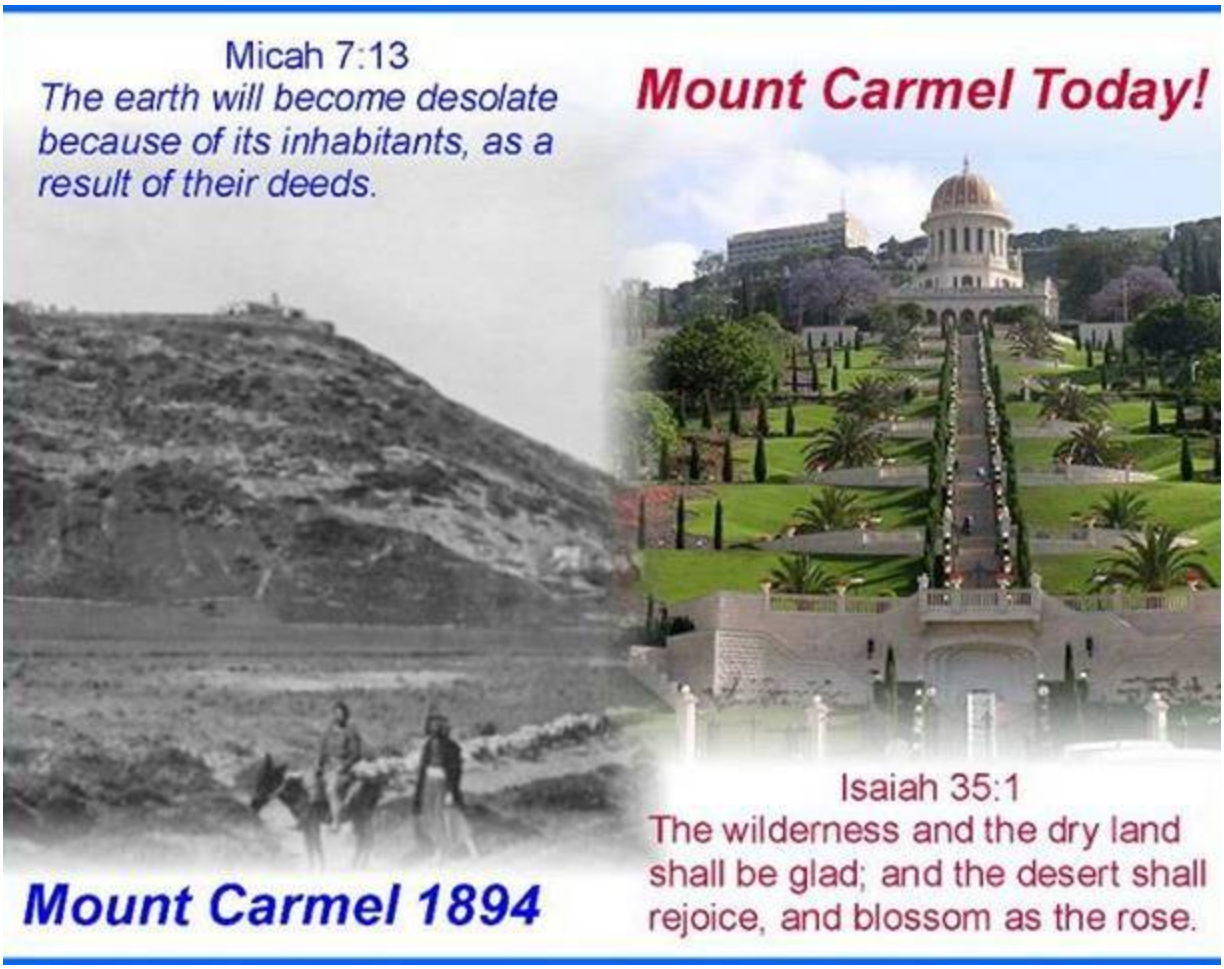
JUDAISM: Isaiah 35:5 "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped." 35:6 "Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert." 35:7 "And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land

springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes." 35:8 "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." 35:9 "No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:" 35:10 "And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

Bahá'u'lláh, The Glory of God or The Glory of the Lord, came to Carmel in the land of Sharon and pitched his tent on the side of Mount Carmel, so Carmel and Sharon did see the Glory of the Lord and the desert did blossom. The Bahá'í gardens on the northern face of Mount Carmel travel from the base of the mountain to the ridge and are so beautiful the government of Israel calls them the eight wonder of the world in their advertisements.

"The gardens are described as: 'The most beautiful spot in the Middle East."

(William Sears, Thief in the Night)


Micah 7:13
The earth will become desolate because of its inhabitants, as a result of their deeds.
Mount Carmel Today!
Mount Carmel 1894
Isaiah 35:1
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.



The Bahá'í Universal House of Justice built in the middle of the spacious Bahá'í gardens on Mount Carmel is a magnificent white marble edifice devoted to dissemination of the laws of God to the whole earth. Bahá'u'lláh himself assures the infallibility of the judgments of the elected body, so the people of the earth can be assured of unerring guidance from God:



“The Universal House of Justice, to be universally elected and established, are both under the care and protection of the Abha Beauty, under the shelter and unerring guidance of His Holiness, the Exalted One.

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 442)

Ezekiel 43:12 “This is the law of the house (The Universal House of Justice); Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house.” Ezekiel 43:11 “And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances (laws) thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them.” The laws of God will be disseminated into the world in the future by The Universal House of Justice.

So, the world can see the Excellency of our God pouring forth in judgments and decisions of The Universal House of Justice protected by The Glory of the Lord.

The Glory of the Lord shall come to Zion.

413. The Glory of the Lord shall come to Zion. ✡ **Judaism: Psalms 132:13 "For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation." Isaiah 59:20 "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD." Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee."**

Bahá'u'lláh, (The Glory of God or The Glory of the Lord), was banished from Persia to Baghdad, from Baghdad to Constantinople, from Constantinople to Adrianople and from Adrianople to Akká in Israel another name of which is Zion. So, the Glory of the Lord, the Redeemer, came to Zion. Later Bahá'u'lláh pitched a tent on the side of Mount Carmel also known as Mount Zion. So by Bahá'u'lláh raising his tent on the side of Mount Carmel The Glory of the Lord was risen upon Zion. The biblical reference to Zion found in the Old Testament was also referred to as Jerusalem when people talked about Jerusalem in the bible. Zion "In the later books of the Old Testament this name was sometimes used" (Ps. 87:2; 149:2; Isa. 33:14; Joel 2:1) "to denote Jerusalem in general, and sometimes God's chosen Israel" (Ps. 51:18; 87:5).

✡ **JUDAISM: Isaiah 59:21 "As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever."**

Bahá'u'lláh, the messenger of God for this day, was the mouth piece of God on this earth. God put His words in Bahá'u'lláh's mouth for him to speak out to mankind.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh furthermore added: "Not I speak these words, but God speaketh them."

(Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, p. 181)

But, it went further than this, upon Bahá'u'lláh's death the authority of interpretation of the divine word went to his son Abdu'l-Baha, his seed. Going one step further with the death of his son Abdu'l-Baha the authority of interpretation of the divine word went to his grandson Shoghi Effendi the seed of his seed there by fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy: Judaism: Isaiah 59:21 "my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed."

For as the lightning cometh out of the east Christ will come from the east when he returns.

414. For as the lightning cometh out of the east Christ will come from the east when he returns. Christianity: Matthew 24:27 "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Bahá'u'lláh came from Elam (Persia) which is to the east of Israel where Jesus made this prophesy. Later in his life Bahá'u'lláh was banished to Akká a prison city in Israel where he spent years as a prisoner. Bahá'u'lláh became aware of his mission when he was a prisoner in Siyah-Chal, the black pit, an underground prison in Persia outside the city of Tehran in modern day Iran. Bahá'u'lláh's mission continued as he went through a progressive series of banishments until he arrived in Israel, where he lived out the remaining days of his life, thus fulfilling this prophecy from Christ. Bahá'u'lláh's mission

started like lightning appearing in the east in Persia and shined unto the west ending in Israel.

The glory of the Lord shall come by way of the east through the gate.

415. <u>The glory of the Lord shall come by way of the east through the gate</u>. ✡ <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Ezekiel</u> 43:2 "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory."

Bahá'u'lláh, The Glory of the God of Israel, came from Persia east of where Ezekiel was, when he had his vision, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar west of Baghdad.

✡ **<u>JUDAISM</u>: <u>Ezekiel</u> 43:4 "And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east."**

Bahá'u'lláh, The Glory of the Lord, was first a follower of the Báb (meaning the gate or door) thereby going through the gate coming by the way of the east thereby fulfilling this prophecy.

✡ **<u>JUDAISM</u>: <u>Ezekiel</u> 43:7 "And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile." Bahá'u'lláh's resting place is in Israel in the midst of the children of Israel where he will dwell forever.**

As for the place of his throne, the Universal House of Justice, the place where the law of God is sent out into the earth, is on the side of Mount Carmel again in the midst of the children of Israel. Also, when a person, Jewish or otherwise, becomes a Bahá'í he accepts the validity of Jesus Christ thereby eliminating the defilement of Christ's holy name by accepting Christ.

The knowledge of the Glory of the Lord shall fill the earth.

416. The knowledge of the Glory of the Lord shall fill the earth. Judaism: Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

The faith of Bahá'u'lláh, (who's title means The Glory of God or The Glory of the Lord), has been taken by pioneers (Bahá'ís who operate like missionaries, only without the financial incentive) all over the world. The knowledge of Bahá'u'lláh (The Glory of the Lord), the Bahá'í teachings, fills the earth and in the future will cover the world as the waters cover the sea. 69. "And the Earth will shine with the glory of its Lord." (The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 39)

The promised one shall glorify Jesus Christ.

417. The promised one shall glorify Jesus Christ. Christianity: John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh furthermore added: 'Not I speak these words, but God speaketh them." "This Wronged One speaketh wholly for the sake of God;" "I speak naught except at His bidding, and follow not, through the power of God and His might, except His truth."

(Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, p. 181 and Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 18 and Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 126)

CHRISTIANITY: John 16:14 "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." Bahá'u'lláh glorified Jesus Christ in his writings and actions.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Reflect how Jesus, the Spirit of God, was, notwithstanding His extreme meekness and perfect tender-heartedness, treated by His enemies. So fierce was the opposition which He, the Essence of Being and Lord of the visible and invisible, had to face, that He had nowhere to lay His head. He wandered continually from place to place, deprived of a permanent abode."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 56)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 9:58 "And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "He Who was Thy Spirit (Jesus), O my God, withdrew all alone in the darkness of the night preceding His last day on earth, and falling on His face to the ground besought Thee saying: "If it be Thy will, O my Lord, my Well-Beloved, let this cup, through Thy grace and bounty, pass from me."**

"By Thy beauty, O Thou Who art the Lord of all names and the Creator of the heavens! I can smell the fragrance of the words which, in His love for Thee, His lips have uttered, and can feel the glow of the fire that had inflamed His soul in its longing to behold Thy face and in its yearning after the Day-Spring of the light of Thy oneness, and the Dawning-Place of Thy transcendent unity."

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 192)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know thou that when the Son of Man yielded up His breath to God, the whole creation wept with a great weeping. By sacrificing Himself, however, a fresh capacity was infused into all created things. Its evidences, as witnessed in all the peoples of the earth, are now manifest before thee. The deepest wisdom which the sages have uttered, the profoundest learning which any mind hath unfolded, the arts which the ablest hands have produced, the influence**

exerted by the most potent of rulers, are but manifestations of the quickening power released by His transcendent, His all-pervasive, and resplendent Spirit."

"We testify that when He came into the world, He shed the splendor of His glory upon all created things. Through Him the leper recovered from the leprosy of perversity and ignorance. Through Him, the unchaste and wayward were healed. Through His power, born of Almighty God, the eyes of the blind were opened, and the soul of the sinner sanctified."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 85)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Then wilt thou know how thou hast plainly erred. Commotions shall seize all the people in that land, unless thou arisest to help this Cause, and followest Him Who is the Spirit of God (Jesus Christ) in this, the Straight Path."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. 20)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Look at the Gospel of the Lord Christ and see how glorious it is! Yet even today men fail to understand its priceless beauty, and misinterpret its words of wisdom."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 48)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "When the Lord Christ came He spread the light of the Holy Spirit on all around Him, and His disciples and all who received His illumination became enlightened, spiritual beings."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 63)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "It was not the body of Christ which came from heaven. His body came from the womb of Mary, but the Christly perfections descended from heaven; the reality of Christ came down**

from heaven. The Spirit of Christ and not the body descended from heaven. The body of Christ was but human. There could be no question that the physical body was born from the womb of Mary. But the reality of Christ, the Spirit of Christ, the perfections of Christ all came from heaven."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 450)

These are just a few of the numerous quotes found in the writing of Bahá'u'lláh that testify of the greatness and glory of Jesus Christ. Clearly Jesus Christ was glorified as promised by Jesus. For more on this topic please turn to the Bahá'í writings for more confirmation.

He shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

418. He shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. ✝ **Christianity: John 16:14 "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." John 16:15 "All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you." One of the titles of Bahá'u'lláh in this world was the Father, and he taught of the teachings of Jesus through his own teachings.**

Jesus Christ promised that the one promised to come after him would receive of Christ's teachings and accept Jesus' teaching as such and make them part of his own and show them or reveal them onto the people with his own teachings. Let us look at some of those teachings from Christ and Bahá'u'lláh.

a. Worship the Lord thy God: ✝ Christianity: Matthew 4:10 "....Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "O my people,' said He, 'Worship God, ye have none other God beside Him...."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 9)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Verily, I beg God to confirm thee by a power by which thou mayest be enabled to worship God and to serve His Cause and to be submissive and lowly before the beloved of God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 120)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "This is verily the century when these imitations must be forsaken, superstitions abandoned and God alone worshiped."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 16)

b. Blessed are the poor: ✝ Christianity: Luke 6:20 "And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Thou wert poor in spirit; He led thee to the Heavenly Treasure. Thou wert in quest of illumination; He enlightened thee through the rays of the Sun of Truth. Thou wert athirst; He led thee to the Spring of Life. Thou wert sick; He bestowed upon thee the Heavenly Remedy."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 54)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The arrangements of the circumstances of the people must be such that poverty shall disappear, and that every one as far as possible, according to his position and rank, shall be comfortable. Whilst the nobles and others in high rank are in easy circumstances, the poor also should be able to get their daily food and not be brought to the extremities of hunger."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 29)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "To be poor in all save God is a wondrous gift, belittle not the value thereof, for in the end it will make thee rich in God,"**

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

c. Blessed are the meek: **Christianity: Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "No one will obtain this great favor save he who cuts himself from this world, being attracted by the love of God, who is dead to the desires and appetites of self, sincere to God in all things and meek, humble, imploring, pleading and lowly before God."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 5)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "If thou seekest eternal glory, let thyself be humble and meek in the presence of the beloved of God; make thyself the servant of all, and serve all alike."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 61)

d. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst and strive after righteousness: **Christianity: Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Change this world into a different world, and cause all humankind to adopt the ways of righteousness and a new manner of life."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 70)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Be an ornament to the countenance of truth, a crown to the brow of fidelity, a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility."**

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 93)

e. Blessed are the merciful:

Christianity: Luke 6:36 "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We know that to help the poor and to be merciful is good and pleases God, but knowledge alone does not feed the starving man, nor can the poor be warmed by knowledge or words in the bitter winter; we must give the practical help of Loving-kindness."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 60)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The friends of God must manifest the mercy of the Compassionate Lord in the world of existence and must show forth the bounty of the visible and invisible King."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 215)

f. Blessed are the pure in heart:

Judaism: Psalms 24:3 "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?" Psalms 24:4 "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart;" Christianity: 1 Peter 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "My hope is that through the zeal and ardour of the pure of heart, the darkness of hatred and difference will be entirely**

abolished, and the light of love and unity shall shine; this world shall become a new world; things material shall become the mirror of the divine; human hearts shall meet and embrace each other; the whole world become as a man's native country and the different races be counted as one race."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 38)

BAHA'I FAITH: "A simple pure heart is near to God;"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 59)

BAHA'I FAITH: "It matters not what the exterior may be if the heart be pure and white within. God does not behold differences of hue and complexion; He looks at the hearts. He whose morals and virtues are praiseworthy is preferred in the presence of God; he who is devoted to the Kingdom is most beloved."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 267)

g. Blessed are the peacemakers:

Christianity: Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Praise be to God! all who have accepted his teachings are lovers of peace, peacemakers ready to sacrifice their lives and expend their possessions for it."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Foundations of World Unity, p. 27)

BAHA'I FAITH: "The whole world must be looked upon as one single country, all the nations as one nation, all men as belonging to one race. Religions, races, and nations are all divisions of man's making only, and are necessary only in his thought; before God there are neither Persians, Arabs, French nor English; God is God for all, and

to Him all creation is one. We must obey God, and strive to follow Him by leaving all our prejudices and bringing about peace on earth."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 131)

h. Blessed are the persecuted:

Christianity: Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.... for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you:"

"The Blessed Perfection was a prisoner twenty-five years. During all this time He was subjected to the indignities and revilement of the people. He was persecuted, mocked and put in chains. In Iran His properties were pillaged and His possessions confiscated. First, banishment from Iran to Baghdad; then to Constantinople; then Adrianople; finally from Roumelia to the prison fortress of 'Akká."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 223)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:11 "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Therefore, O ye beloved of God, be not grieved when people stand against you, persecute you, afflict and trouble you and say all manner of evil against you. The darkness will pass away and the light of the manifest signs will appear, the veil will be withdrawn and the Light of Reality will shine forth from the unseen Kingdom of El-Abha."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 396)

i. Ye are the salt of the earth:

Christianity: Matthew 5:13 "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

BAHA'I FAITH: "I ask God to make ye lamps ignited by the great Light, so that ye may stand with all power, meekness, humbleness, sacrifice and self-resignation and thus become examples for the people and pure types for the world, be salt of the earth, stars of guidance, great trees with broad foliage and excellent fruits of fragrant scent, growing by the bounty of the cloud of the Kingdom of El-ABHA."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v1, p. 7)

j. Ye are the light of the world.... let your light so shine before men:

Christianity: Matthew 5:14 "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." Matthew 5:15 "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house." Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Do harm to nobody; pray for all; try to make your light shine in the world and let your banner fly high in the Heavens. The beautiful perfume of your noble lives will permeate everywhere. The light of truth kindled in your hearts will shine out to the distant horizon!"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 118)

(Jesus came to fulfill the law not destroy the law.)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Law of God is divided into two parts. One is the fundamental basis which comprises all spiritual things -- that is to say, it refers to the spiritual virtues and divine qualities; this does not change nor alter: it is the Holy of Holies, which is the essence of the Law of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Christ, Muhammad, the Báb, and Bahá'u'lláh, and which lasts and is established in all the prophetic cycles. It will never be abrogated, for it is spiritual and not material truth; it is faith, knowledge, certitude, justice, piety, righteousness, trustworthiness, love of God, benevolence, purity, detachment, humility, meekness, patience and constancy. It shows mercy to the poor, defends the oppressed, gives to the wretched and uplifts the fallen."**

"These divine qualities, these eternal commandments, will never be abolished; nay, they will last and remain established for ever and ever. These virtues of humanity will be renewed in each of the different cycles; for at the end of every cycle the spiritual Law of God -- that is to say, the human virtues -- disappears, and only the form subsists."

"Thus among the Jews, at the end of the cycle of Moses, which coincides with the Christian manifestation, the Law of God disappeared, only a form without spirit remaining. The Holy of Holies departed from among them, but the outer court of Jerusalem -- which is the expression used for the form of the religion -- fell into the hands of the Gentiles. In the same way, the fundamental principles of the religion of Christ, which are the greatest virtues of humanity, have disappeared; and its form has remained in the hands of the clergy and the priests. Likewise, the foundation of the religion of Muhammad has disappeared, but its form remains in the hands of the official ulama."

"These foundations of the Religion of God, which are spiritual and which are the virtues of humanity, cannot be abrogated; they are irremovable and eternal, and are renewed in the cycle of every Prophet."

"The second part of the Religion of God, which refers to the material world, and which comprises fasting, prayer, forms of worship, marriage and divorce, the abolition of slavery, legal processes, transactions, indemnities for murder, violence, theft and injuries -- this part of the Law of God, which refers to material things, is modified and altered in each prophetic cycle in accordance with the necessities of the times."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 47)

k. Thou shall not kill:

Christianity: Matthew 5:21 "Thou shalt not kill:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Every intelligent man comprehends that murder, theft, treachery, falsehood, hypocrisy and cruelty are evil and reprehensible; for if you prick a man with a thorn, he will cry out, complain and groan; so it is evident that he will understand that murder according to reason is evil and reprehensible."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 266)

l. Forgiveness:

Christianity: Matthew 5:23 "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;" Matthew 5:24 "Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

BAHA'I FAITH: "We must look upon our enemies with a sin-covering eye and act with justice when confronted with any injustice whatsoever, forgive all, consider the whole of humanity as our own family, the whole earth as our own country, be sympathetic with all suffering, nurse the sick, offer a shelter to the exiled, help the poor and those in need, dress all wounds and share the happiness of each one."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 41)

m. Thou shalt not commit adultery:

Christianity: Matthew 5:27 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Ye have been forbidden to commit murder or adultery, or to engage in backbiting or calumny; shun ye, then, what hath been prohibited in the holy Books and Tablets."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 26)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 5:28 "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O QUINTESSENCE OF PASSION! Put away all covetousness and seek contentment; for the covetous hath ever been deprived, and the contented hath ever been loved and praised."

(Baha'u'llah, The Persian Hidden Words)

n. Divorcement:

Christianity: Matthew 5:31 "It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:" Matthew 5:32 "But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Should resentment or antipathy arise between husband and wife, he is not to divorce her but to bide in patience throughout the course of one whole year, that perchance the fragrance of affection may be renewed between them. If, upon the completion of this period, their love hath not returned, it is permissible for divorce to take place."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 43)

o. Turn the other cheek:

Christianity: Matthew 5:38 "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:" Matthew 5:39 "But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also."

BAHA'I FAITH: "When Christ came this was changed; the old axiom 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth' was converted into 'Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you', the stern old law being changed into one of love, mercy and forbearance!"

"In the former days the punishment for theft was the cutting off of the right hand; in our time this law could not be so applied. In this age, a man who curses his father is allowed to live, when formerly he would have been put to death. It is therefore evident that whilst the spiritual law never alters, the practical rules must change their application with the necessities of the time."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 142)

p. Love your enemies:

Christianity: Matthew 5:43 "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy." Matthew 5:44 "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

BAHA'I FAITH: "One of the teachings is that love and faithfulness must so prevail in the hearts that men may see the stranger as a friend, the sinner as an intimate fellow, may count enemies as allies, regard foes as loving comrades, call their executioner the giver of life, consider the denier as a believer and the unbeliever as a faithful one -- that is, men must behave in such a manner as may befit the believers, the faithful, the friend and the confidant."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 414)

q. Be perfect like God:

Christianity: Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The being of man must unite all perfections to be perfect."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 302)

r. Don't be a showoff:

Christianity: Matthew 6:1 "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men," Matthew 6:4 "That thine alms may be in secret:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Contributions to the Funds, must be held in the strictest confidence by the Assembly and its members. Disclosure of such information destroys the "confidence of the believers in the Assembly and its members"

(The Universal House of Justice, 1996 Aug 02, Confidentiality and Spiritual Assemblies)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 6:5 "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." Matthew 6:6 "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Each one must say his prayer alone by himself, and this is not conditional on a private place; that is, both at home and in the worshipping-place, which is a gathering-place, it is allowable for one to say his prayer; but each person must say his prayer by himself."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of Abdu'l-Baha v2, p. 464)

s. Judge not: Christianity: Matthew 7:1 "Judge not, that ye be not judged."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Who are we that we should judge? How shall we know who, in the sight of God, is the most upright man? God's thoughts are not like our thoughts! How many men who have seemed saint-like to their friends have fallen into the greatest humiliation."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Paris Talks, p. 147)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 7:3 "Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

BAHA'I FAITH: "Night and day endeavor to attain perfect harmony; be thoughtful concerning your own spiritual developments and close your eyes to the shortcomings of one another."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 365)

t. Golden rule: Christianity: Matthew 7:12 "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

BAHA'I FAITH: "O son of man! If thine eyes be turned towards mercy, forsake the things that profit thee, and cleave unto that which will profit mankind. And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbor that which thou choosest for thyself."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 29)

Bahá'u'lláh teaches that all the great world religions come from the one God so all of these religions are in reality one religion so that makes Christianity and the teachings of Christianity part of the Bahá'í Faith, so by Bahá'u'lláh stating all the religions are one religion Bahá'u'lláh is taking that which is Jesus Christ's and again showing it to the people all over the world. Christianity: John 16:15 "All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "A friend asked how the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh contrasted with the teachings of Jesus Christ. 'The teachings are the same.' declared 'Abdu'l-Bahá; 'It is the same foundation and the same temple. Truth is one, and without division. The teachings of Jesus are in a concentrated form. Men do not agree to this day as to the meaning of many of His sayings. His teachings are as a flower in the bud. Today, the bud is unfolding into a flower! Bahá'u'lláh has expanded and fulfilled the teachings, and has applied them in detail to the whole world."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 92)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh then came and once more renewed the foundation of Faith. He brought back the teachings of God, and the humane practices of the time of Christ. He quenched the thirst of the thirsty, He awakened the careless and called the attention of the heedless to the Divine secrets. He declared the unity of humanity, and spread abroad the teaching of the equality of all men."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 45)

The first shall be the last.

419. The first shall be the last. Christianity: Matthew 19:30 "But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first." Christ said this many times the first shall be the last and he said the last shall be

the first. Matthew 20:16 "So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen." Mark 9:35 "And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all." Some may ask themselves an understandable question; what does Christ mean the first shall be the last? And, why are only a few chosen? Luke 13:30 "And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last."

One explanation of what Christ means by the first is the religious leaders who when they hear the new word of God coming down to them they scoff and, worried about their power and authority, they turn away from God's holy messenger and in the end are the last to see the truth and come to God. While the last, those without power and distinction, hear the word of God for what it is and are the first to come to God's holy messenger.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Remember the words of Jesus who said, 'The first shall be last, and the last first."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Abdu'l-Baha in London, p. 108)

One meaning of the statement few are chosen is that the word of God calls out to many people, but few, in the beginning, choose to accept God's invitation.

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 20:15 "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Many are called, but few are chosen. The chosen have heard and understood the call from the divine assembly."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 59)

He shall come as a thief.

420. He shall come as a thief. Christianity: Matthew 24:42 "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matthew 24:43 "But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up." In the Bahá'í Writings we learn that when God sends his revealer most men like the good man of the house cling to a more literal interpretation of the holy writings of God or hold more with religious traditions and theology and thereby fail to recognize God's holy revealer when he comes down on the clouds of man's misunderstandings and false beliefs. Matthew 24:44 "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." So, even though the bible in reality tells us the time when he will come (see abomination of desolation for more information) and where he will come (see location of the coming of the prophet), people will still fail to be ready because they are not spiritually ready to recognize Gods holy manifestation even though the time and place are told to us. Instead we are told to watch. Luke 12:38 "And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants." Luke 12:39 "And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through." Luke 12:40 "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." This is what the warning is all about. Jesus is trying to warn his followers to be spiritually ready so when he comes out from behind that veil of concealment and is revealed to mankind (see the son of man is revealed for more information) his true followers would be ready and recognize God's new messiah for the day.

CHRISTIANITY: 1 Thessalonians 5:2 "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." What he is really warning men about is that he will come unexpectedly by means that the mass of the people will be caught off guard like the coming of a thief into the house.

CHRISTIANITY: 2 Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." Since he will come as a thief and appear before the masses of the people are ready there will be great commotion and consternation among the people of the world and the spiritual heavens of man's religion shall pass away with a great noise and the elements of man's old belief structure will be burnt up.

If there is still any question about the symbolic nature of Jesus Christ's statement he will come as a thief the bible also tells us that all eyes will see him Christianity: Revelations 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him….," which is also symbolic in nature (see all eyes will see for more information). These two statements can't both be literally correct because they contradict each other completely, but they can be symbolic of spiritual biblical events. What Jesus does repeatedly do is warn mankind to watch. Mark 13:37 "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch." Of what use would watching be if Jesus Christ literally comes down on the clouds (see coming down on the clouds for more information). Everyone would see when Jesus came there would be no mystery to it we wouldn't need to be watching because we couldn't miss him. But, coming as a thief we would need to watch closely because he could come almost in secret and we might miss him if we are not careful when he appears.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Christ said: 'Perhaps I shall come when you are yet asleep, for the coming of the Son of man is like the coming of a thief.' Perhaps the thief will be in the house, and the owner will not know it."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 111)

Mount Carmel.

421. Mount Carmel. ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 2:2 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of The LORD'S House shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." In the last days, today, (See latter days, or last days, or the end of the world for more information), The Lords House or God's House will be established in the top of the mountains. In Israel one of the most prominent mountains in the whole area is Mount Carmel; also known as Zion. This is the mountain that Isaiah promises will see The Glory of The Lord and The Excellency of God: ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 35:2 "The excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see The Glory of The LORD, and The Excellency of our God." Carmel is the mountain that Bahá'u'lláh (whose name means The Glory of God or The Glory of The Lord) pitched his tent on, in a small woods, and revealed a tablet about the greatness and loftiness the future of Carmel holds for mankind. Micah 1:3 "For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth." Micah 7:12 "In that day also he shall," Micah 7:14 "feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old." Carmel is the mountain where the Bahá'í Faith has built the Universal House of Justice, which the people of the nations of the world flow onto it.



<u>JUDAISM</u>: <u>Isaiah</u> 2:3 "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD." Bahá'ís from all around the world go to Israel to visit Mount Carmel; it is a place of pilgrimage for the Bahá'ís that all Bahá'ís want to visit at least once in their life time. One of the buildings built on the side of Mount Carmel is The Archive of the Sacred Texts. This is a place where the sacred texts of the Bahá'í Faith are studied and translated out of the languages Bahá'u'lláh used into the languages of the world, so the writings of Bahá'u'lláh can teach us God's ways, so we can walk in the ways, or paths of God.

On a more literal note, there are many pathways on the side of Mount Carmel in the world renowned Bahá'í gardens that numerous Bahá'ís physically walk over every day; so Bahá'ís from all around the world walk on the paths of God's Holy Mountain. The purpose of The Universal House of Justice is the order and administration of the

Bahá'í Faith for the entire world. The word of God and the law of God flow out from The Universal House of Justice on Mount Carmel to the rest of the world, so the word and law of God flow out of Zion, The Mountain of The Lord, to the world. ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 2:3 "For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD." Isaiah 2:4 "And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Another purpose of The Universal House of Justice is to be a world house of judgment. The Universal House of Justice is a place where, in the future, the nations of the world will be judged according to their conduct in the world and judgments will be handed down from The Universal House of Justice to the peoples of the world thereby fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah stating Isaiah 2:4 "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people."



Note the paths there for the people to walk on:

One of the main tenets of the Baha'i Faith is the elimination of war on this earth. Bahá'u'lláh had a lot to say about the elimination of war on this earth.

BAHA'I FAITH: "It is their duty to convene an all-inclusive assembly, which either they themselves or their ministers will attend, and to enforce whatever measures are required to establish unity and concord amongst men. They must put away the weapons of war, and turn to the instruments of universal reconstruction. Should one king rise up against another, all the other kings must arise to deter him. Arms and armaments will, then, be no more needed beyond that which is necessary to insure the internal security of their respective countries."

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 30)

In Bahá'u'lláh's plan mankind could live in peace and security, and man's armaments could be reduced thereby leading into the world wide most great peace in which Bahá'u'lláh and the bible tell us: Judaism: Isaiah 2:4 "they (mankind) shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any-more."

In the writings of Micah we find that Micah makes, pretty much, the same prophecy that Isaiah made about Mount Carmel and Zion. Micah 1:2 "Hear, all ye people; hearken, O earth, and all that therein is: and let the Lord GOD be witness against you, the LORD from His holy temple." Micah 1:3 "For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of His place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth." Micah 4:1 "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of The LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it." The Bahá'í gardens and Bahá'í administration buildings on the side of Mount Carmel are so beautiful that the government of Israel calls the gardens one of the wonders of the world and tourists who visit the country are routinely taken there, thereby exalting the

station Mount Carmel above the hills, and that is just mentioning the literal interpretation of this passage, it shall be exalted. Spiritually Carmel is the site of The Universal House of Justice as well as the final resting place of the Báb and Abdu'l-Bahá thereby making Mount Carmel one of the most exalted, sacred places on this earth. Micah 4:2 "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of The LORD." Micah 4:3 "And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any-more." Bahá'í Faith: "The Universal House of Justice,[1] if it be established under the necessary conditions -- with members elected from all the people -- that House of Justice will be under the protection and the unerring guidance of God. If that House of Justice shall decide unanimously, or by a majority, upon any question not mentioned in the Book, that decision and command will be guarded from mistake. Now the members of the House of Justice have not, individually, essential infallibility; but the body of the House of Justice is under the protection and unerring guidance of God: this is called conferred infallibility."

(Abdu'l-Bahá, Some Answered Questions, p. 172)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The sacred and youthful branch, the guardian of the Cause of God, as well as the Universal House of Justice, to be universally elected and established, are both under the care and protection of the Abha Beauty (Bahá'u'lláh), under the shelter and unerring guidance of His Holiness, the Exalted One (may my life be offered up for them both). Whatsoever they decide is of God. Whoso obeyeth him not, neither obeyeth them, hath not obeyed God; whoso rebelleth against him and against them hath rebelled against God; whoso opposeth him hath opposed God; whoso contendeth with them hath contended with God; whoso disputeth with him hath disputed with God; whoso denieth him hath denied God; whoso disbelieveth in him hath disbelieved in God; whoso deviateth, separateth himself and**

turneth aside from him hath in truth deviated, separated himself and turned aside from God. May the wrath, the fierce indignation, the vengeance of God rest upon him!"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 442)

Or in-other-words, ✡ Judaism: Micah 1:3 "The LORD cometh forth out of His place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth." God has come down and tread the high places of the earth, Mount Carmel, and is infallibly giving guidance to The Universal House of Justice, on the side of Mount Carmel, thereby making this prophesy spiritually and, pretty much, almost literally true! Micah 4:4 "But they shall sit every man under His vine and under His fig tree (the nine members of The Universal House of Justice); and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of The LORD of hosts hath spoken it." Zechariah 3:10 "In that day, saith The LORD of Hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree." Micah 4:5 "For all people will walk everyone in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of The LORD our God for ever and ever." Micah 4:6 "In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted;" Micah 4:7 "And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for-ever." As I stated earlier this prophecy from Micah was fulfilled pretty much the same way Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled. People from all around the world travel to Mount Carmel, also sometimes known as Zion, they walk the paths on the side of the mountain, and the word and the law of God flows out, through God's infallible guidance, from the mountain of God, and in the not to distant future, the nations shall be judged from the mountain of God. The big difference between Micah's prophesy for the last days, and Isaiah's prophesy for the last days is that, the Jewish people will be brought back to Israel in Micah's prophecy: 4:6 "I will gather her that is driven out (the children of Israel)." And as we can now see this has now happened; as-well-as The Bahá'í Universal House of Justice now actually being in existence on the side of Mount Carmel; which again pretty much demonstrates symbolically, and spiritually that these are spiritually the last days,

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 2:2 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." Micah 4:1 "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of The LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it." 4:7 "And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for-ever." Ezekiel 11:17 "Therefore, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel." Ezekiel 34:13 "And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel." Ezekiel 37:21 "And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whether they be gone, and will gather them on every side and bring them into their own land:" 37:22 "And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel;" Micah 4:6 "In that day," 4:1 "the last days," 4:6 "saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted;" Micah 4:7 "And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for-ever."**

As we can now see: the Jewish people have been brought back to Israel, Israel is now a strong nation, and The Universal House of Justice is now, to be found, on the side of Mount Carmel giving out the word's and laws of God, thereby demonstrating, in my way of thinking and reasoning, that these are actually, symbolically the last days, or the end times, spoken of in the bible, and most of the biblical prophesies about the second coming and the last days are now fulfilled; but most of the world just hasn't realized it yet!!!

We also hear part of this prophecy again, and hear it again reiterated in the book of Zechariah, where Zechariah, again hints at God's actual

future interactions with mankind on The side of The Mountain of God: ✡ Judaism: Zechariah 8:3 "Thus saith The LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and The Mountain of The LORD of Hosts, The Holy Mountain." Zechariah 14:9 "And The LORD shall be King over all the earth; in that day shall there be One LORD, and His Name One." Zechariah 2:11 "And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day (a united mankind and peaceful humanity), and shall be My people and I will dwell in the midst of thee, (on the side of Mount Carmel)." Zechariah 14:8 "And it shall be in that day, that living waters (the word of God and the law of God) shall go out from Jerusalem (Zion, Israel)." Zephaniah 3:16 "In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack." For, 3:17 "The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty;"

So than, let's take a look at this statement from Micah once more: Micah 1:2 "Hear, all ye people; hearken, O earth (all ye people of the earth), and all that therein is: and let The Lord GOD be witness against you, The LORD from His holy temple." ✡ Judaism: Micah 1:3 "For, behold, The LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth (Mount Carmel, Zion in Israel)."

So than, if this wasn't enough, we also hear from the prophet Joel: ✡ Judaism: Joel 3:14 "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision." For, Joel 3:16 "The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but The LORD will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel." Joel 3:17 "So shall ye know that I am The LORD your God dwelling in Zion (Mount Carmel), My holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any-more." There will actually be no more strangers, because we will all be living in a united, peaceful world, with The Lord God actually watching over us in a more active role, and taking a more semi-active role in helping to guide us through His guidance and interaction with The Universal House of Justice.

So then, Ezekiel now tells us: ✡ Judaism: Ezekiel 43:11 "And if they (the people of Israel) be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house (The Universal House of Justice), and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all of the forms thereof, and all of the ordinances thereof, and all of the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them." Ezekiel 43:12 "This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house."



Is this beginning to be enough information and quotes, from all of these many, numerous prophets of God, found within writings of The Holy Bible, that The House of God will actually exist on The Mountain of God, in the Holy Land in the last days, or in the present, in this day and time? ✝ Christianity: Revelation 21:10 "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain (I believe this mountain would have to be Mount Carmel, where the law of God will be flowing out from), and shewed me that great city, The Holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God," Revelation 21:11 "Having The Glory of God."

The name Bahá'u'lláh, means The Glory of God, and so according to John, that city and that mountain would have to be under the influence of The Glory of God, or Bahá'u'lláh, which is again what the Bahá'í writings tell us, is the case, with that city actually representing the laws of God. Revelation 21:23 "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for The Glory of God (Bahá'u'lláh) did lighten it." 21:24 "And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it." 21:25 "And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there." 21:26 "And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it." Is this beginning to sound familiar? The Mountain of God, or Mount Carmel is talked about in both The Old and The New Testaments of the bible, and the nations and the people and kings will all flow unto it! And so, Bahá'í Faith: "The descent of the New Jerusalem denoteth a heavenly Law, that Law which is the guarantor of human happiness and the effulgence of the world of God." "The Law of God is also described as The Holy City, The New Jerusalem. It is evident that The New Jerusalem which descends from heaven is not a city of stone, mortar, bricks, earth and wood. It is The Law of God which descends from heaven and is called new, for it is clear that the Jerusalem which is of stone and earth does not descend from heaven, and that it is not renewed; but that which is renewed is The Law of God."

(Abdu'l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 59 and Some Answered Questions, p. 67)

(Also see day of the gentiles for more information)

Twin messengers at the time of the end and the three woes.

422. Twin messengers at the time of the end and the three woes. Judaism: Zechariah 4:11 "Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the

candlestick and upon the left side thereof? Zechariah 4:14 "Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth." In the day of the return two messengers or two anointed ones from God are to appear on the earth to lead mankind along the right path to God. As Bahá'ís we believe that The Báb and Bahá'u'lláh are those two manifestations from God that stand by the Lord bringing His teachings to mankind.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. These two souls are likened to olive trees because at that time all lamps were lighted by olive oil. The meaning is two persons from whom that spirit of the wisdom of God, which is the cause of the illumination of the world, appears. These lights of God were to radiate and shine; therefore, they are likened to two candlesticks: the candlestick is the abode of the light, and from it the light shines forth. In the same way the light of guidance would shine and radiate from these illumined souls."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 49)

 **JUDAISM: Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts." The Báb was the messenger that was sent before Bahá'u'lláh. The Báb came to prepare the way for Bahá'u'lláh's mission to rejuvenate the world of mankind and bring God's kingdom to this earth. Obadiah 1:21 "And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD'S."**  **Christianity: Revelations 8:13 "And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth"**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Revelations 9:12 "One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter." Revelations 11:14 "The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly." The use of the**

term woe is used here to signify the great commotion that comes with the advent of a messenger of God. Judaism: Ezekiel 30:1 "The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying," Ezekiel 30:2 "Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Howl ye, Woe worth the day!" Ezekiel 30:3 "For the day is near, even the day of the LORD is near," Isaiah 13:6 "Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand." Whenever God sends His manifestation to this earth there is an upheaval that seizes man the likes of which is rarely seen on this earth. It creates tremendous conflict and turmoil in religion and much dissension in the family, a woe:

CHRISTIANITY: Mark 13:12 "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death." These were the conditions with the coming of Muhammad, which we consider to be the first woe after Jesus Christ. These were also the conditions with the coming of the Báb, the second woe. As for the third woe that cometh quickly this was the mission of Bahá'u'lláh, which came only a few short years after the martyrdom of the Báb.

BAHA'I FAITH: "The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. The first woe is the appearance of the Prophet, Muhammad, the son of Abdu'llah -- peace be upon Him! The second woe is that of the Báb -- to Him be glory and praise! The third woe is the great day of the manifestation of the Lord of Hosts and the radiance of the Beauty of the Promised One. The explanation of this subject, woe, is mentioned in the thirtieth chapter of Ezekiel, where it is said: 'The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Howl ye, Woe worth the day! For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near.'"
[1 Rev. 11:14.] [2 Ez. 30:1-3.]

"Therefore, it is certain that the day of woe is the day of the Lord; for in that day woe is for the neglectful, woe is for the sinners, woe is for the ignorant. That is why it is said, 'The second woe is past; behold the third woe cometh quickly!' This third woe is the day of the

manifestation of Bahá'u'lláh, the day of God; and it is near to the day of the appearance of the Báb."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 55)

In Islam there are two woes or trumpet blasts, because Muhammad was the first woe or trumpet blast spoken of in Christianity:

 **ISLAM: 6. "One day, the disturbing trumpet-blast shall disturb it, Which the second blast shall follow: Men's hearts on that day shall quake." In Islam they have two trumpet blasts or two woes, because the first woe or the first trumpet blast prophesied in Christianity was Muhammad in Islam. (The Qur'an (Rodwell tr), Sura 79 - Those Who Drag Forth)**

 **JUDAISM: Joel 2:1 "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand."**

 **ISLAM: 6 "On the day when the first trump resoundeth." 7 "And the second followeth it, 8 On that day hearts beat painfully." (The Qur'an (Pickthall tr), Sura 79 - Those Who Pull Out)**

 **ISLAM: 6. "One Day everything that can be in commotion will be in violent commotion (a woe), 7. "Followed by (another commotion, another woe)," 8. "Hearts that Day (the day of God's manifestation) will be in agitation." (The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 79)**

Blessed are the persecuted.

423. Blessed are the persecuted: One of the signs of a new revelation from God is the persecution of God's messenger and the persecution of the prophet's followers. This happened during the time Christ was on this earth, this happened during the time of Muhammad,

it happened during the time of the Báb, with the Báb and 20,000 early believers being put to death in various ways of torture.

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Báb became a martyr, and over twenty thousand men and women sacrificed their lives for their faith."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace)

This also happened to Bahá'u'lláh and his followers after the death of the Báb. Persecution seems to be a universal constant for God's chosen ones when they appear on this earth, and a sign that the revelation comes from God. Christianity: Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:11 "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." Matthew 5:12 "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake.... for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you:"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 223)

CHRISTIANITY: John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also." John 15:21 "But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Blessed Perfection was a prisoner twenty-five years. During all this time He was subjected to the indignities and revilement of the people. He was persecuted, mocked and put in chains. In Iran His properties were pillaged and His possessions

confiscated. First, banishment from Iran to Baghdad; then to Constantinople; then Adrianople; finally from Roumelia to the prison fortress of 'Akká."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 223)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Acts 7:52 "Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:"**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Therefore, O ye beloved of God, be not grieved when people stand against you, persecute you, afflict and trouble you and say all manner of evil against you. The darkness will pass away and the light of the manifest signs will appear, the veil will be withdrawn and the Light of Reality will shine forth from the unseen Kingdom of El-Abha."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 396)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Galatians 4:29 "But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now."**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Praise be to Thee, O Lord My God, for the wondrous revelations of Thy inscrutable decree and the manifold woes and trials Thou hast destined for Myself. At one time Thou didst deliver Me into the hands of Nimrod; at another Thou hast allowed Pharaoh's rod to persecute Me. Thou, alone, canst estimate, through Thine all-encompassing knowledge and the operation of Thy Will, the incalculable afflictions I have suffered at their hands. Again Thou didst cast Me into the prison-cell of the ungodly, for no reason except that I was moved to whisper into the ears of the well-favored denizens of Thy Kingdom an intimation of the vision with which Thou hadst, through Thy knowledge, inspired Me, and revealed to Me its meaning through the potency of Thy might. And again Thou didst decree that I**

be beheaded by the sword of the infidel. Again I was crucified for having unveiled to men's eyes the hidden gems of Thy glorious unity, for having revealed to them the wondrous signs of Thy sovereign and everlasting power. How bitter the humiliations heaped upon Me, in a subsequent age, on the plain of Karbila! How lonely did I feel amidst Thy people! To what a state of helplessness I was reduced in that land! Unsatisfied with such indignities, My persecutors decapitated Me, and, carrying aloft My head from land to land paraded it before the gaze of the unbelieving multitude, and deposited it on the seats of the perverse and faithless. In a later age, I was suspended, and My breast was made a target to the darts of the malicious cruelty of My foes. My limbs were riddled with bullets, and My body was torn asunder. Finally, behold how, in this Day, My treacherous enemies have leagued themselves against Me, and are continually plotting to instill the venom of hate and malice into the souls of Thy servants. With all their might they are scheming to accomplish their purpose.... Grievous as is My plight, O God, My Well-Beloved, I render thanks unto Thee, and My Spirit is grateful for whatsoever hath befallen me in the path of Thy good-pleasure. I am well pleased with that which Thou didst ordain for Me, and welcome, however calamitous, the pains and sorrows I am made to suffer."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 88)

This is, and has been, the plight of God's messengers and followers in the past and it is the actions of the people in this era. There are whole books written on the subjects of the persecution of the early Bábís and Bahá'ís as well as books on the persecution of Bahá'ís in this day and time. Persecution it seems, as I said earlier, is the lot of God's chosen ones on this earth. Whenever God sends a new manifestation to mankind, mankind will inevitably rise up against him and try to put him and his followers down. The amount of persecution the prophet and his followers have to endure, in this life, is a direct sign that the revelation is from God and not some creation out of the minds of men.

 **ISLAM: 6. "But how many were the prophets We sent amongst the peoples of old?" 7. "And never came there a prophet to them but they mocked him."**

(The Qur'an (Yusuf Ali tr), Surah 43)

Signs in the earth and in the heavens.

424. Signs in the earth and in the heavens. Some of the proofs that deal with the coming of the messiah are physical happenings, though as I have said there is much symbolism in the bible, and in the writings of God. Even though some of the writings of God have a very literal interpretation; these are the writings of God, a spiritual entity,  **Christianity: John 4:24 "God is a Spirit," and if we care to look there is almost always a spiritual side to the writings if we look for it. Matthew 24:7 "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." This is one of the signs of his coming Christ told us to look for on his return.**
Revelations 6:12 "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;"

Signs in the earth:

 **CHRISTIANITY: Revelations 6:12 "lo, there was a great earthquake;" Among the earth movements which, in historic times, have affected the earth the great earthquake in Portugal, on November 1, 1755, takes first rank as it does, in some respects, among all recorded earthquakes...In six minutes 60,000 people perished by the hand of nature; but that wasn't to be all of the great quakes. In that very same year, 1755, another great earthquake struck in the land of Persia, killing another 40,000 persons. So, in 1755, alone, 100,000 people perished by the movements of the earth.**

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 24:3 "The disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming?" Matthew 24:7 "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." The wars and rumors of wars that Christ mentions will accompany his return, Matthew 24:6 "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars:" this topic was covered in (Wars and rumors of wars and earthquakes, in divers places) See this section for more information. But as to the signs in the earth Christ tells us about Matthew 24:7 "earthquakes, in divers places," Christ tells us there would be earthquakes in divers places before his return:

"In the 65 years that elapsed between A.D. 1800 and A.D. 1865, there occurred (within the limits of the old Roman Empire alone) no less than 35 great and disastrous earthquakes. In the Scandinavian Peninsulas and in Iceland, from A.D. 1700 to 1850, (there have been) 224; in Spain and Portugal 178; In France, Belgium and Holland 600...On the Italian Peninsula and the Eastern Mediterranean, upwards of 800 earthquakes have occurred within the period of fifty years between 1800 and 1850."

(William Sears, Thief in the Night)

This I think would constitute not just the great earthquake, spoken of in revelations, but also the earthquakes from all over the world. This should establish that the prophecy of the earthquakes in diver's places, spoken of by Christ, is fulfilled.

Signs in the heavens:

CHRISTIANITY: Revelations 6:12 "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;" The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, this is another sign of the coming of the Lord. Judaism: Joel 2:31 "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the

great and the terrible day of the LORD come." Christianity: Acts 2:20 "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:"

"The Dark Day, May 19th, 1780 -- so called on account of a remarkable darkness on that day extending all over New England....The true cause of this remarkable phenomenon is not known.' In his Collections for the Massachusetts Historical Society 1792, Samuel Tenny writes: 'This gross darkness held till about one o'clock, although the moon had filled but the day before.' Uriah Smith, writing of Tenny's statement says: 'This statement respecting the phase of the moon proves the impossibility of an eclipse of the sun at that time. Whenever on this memorable night the moon did appear, as at times it did, it had...the appearance of blood.' [Daniel and the Revelation, Uriah Smith, 1904, p. 445.] Many of the scholars made much of the uniqueness of this event, pointing out that it was not a natural eclipse of the sun -- but a sudden darkening of the sky, with the moon having the appearance of blood. The more conservative scholars explained that it did not matter whether the happening was a natural one or a mysterious one. The important thing was that the sun was darkened and the moon turned into blood."

(William Sears, Thief in the Night)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:" Matthew 24:30 "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:"

"The Dark Day, May 19th, 1780 -- so called on account of a remarkable darkness on that day extending all over New England....The true cause of this remarkable phenomenon is not known.'

"The Massachusetts Spy reported the following: 'Nor was the darkness of the night less uncommon and terrifying than that of the

day; notwithstanding there was almost a full moon, no object was discernible, but by help of some artificial light....Some considered it as the immediate harbinger of the last day, when 'the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light."

(William Sears, Thief in the Night)

CHRISTIANITY: Revelations 6:13 "And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind." Mark 13:24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light," Mark 13:25 "And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken." Mark 13:26 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory."

"And the stars of heaven shall fall: THE STAR-FALL OF 1833" "So exceptional was this event, that Clarke in his History of Astronomy in the Nineteenth Century writes: '...a tempest of falling stars broke over the earth. The Boston observer, Olmsted, compared them, at the moment of maximum, to half the number of flakes which are perceived in the air during an ordinary shower of snow.' Professor Olmsted estimated 34,640 falling stars per hour. His estimate was made after the shower had diminished sufficiently for him to make some sort of a count.

The American Journal of Science carried the following report: 'Though there was no moon, when we first observed them, their brilliancy was so great that we could, at times, read common-sized print without much difficulty,"

(William Sears, Thief in the Night)

These physical signs were to precede the second coming of Christ: Christianity: Mark 13:26 "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory." But, what of the spiritual signs from God?

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Certain weak, capricious, malicious and ignorant souls have been shaken by the earthquake of hatred, of animosity,"**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 429)

When we look in the Bahá'í Writings we find the evidences of spiritual commotions or spiritual earthquakes talked about in the writings that could also be reflected in the multitude of possible meanings of earthquakes talked about in the bible.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "One who witnessed it could know what a turmoil they created and what an earthquake of anguish was the result."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Selections from the Writings of Abdu'l-Baha, p. 74)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 13:24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,"**

If we look for it, in the Bahá'í Writings, we can also find spiritual meanings for the terms sun darkened and moon not giving off light:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give light, and the stars shall fall from heaven." By the terms "sun" and "moon," mentioned in the writings of the Prophets of God, is not meant solely the sun and moon of the visible universe. Nay rather, manifold are the meanings they have intended for these terms. In every instance they have attached to them a particular significance. Thus, by the "sun" in one sense is meant those Suns of Truth Who rise from the dayspring of ancient glory, and fill the world with a liberal effusion of grace from on high. These Suns of Truth are the universal Manifestations of God in the worlds of His attributes and names."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 32)

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:"

BAHA'I FAITH: "It is unquestionable that in every succeeding Revelation the "sun" and "moon" of the teachings, laws, commandments, and prohibitions which have been established in the preceding Dispensation, and which have overshadowed the people of that age, become darkened, that is, are exhausted, and cease to exert their influence."

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 41)

Finally when we look into the writings of the Bahá'í Faith we find a symbolic explanation to the biblical statement the stars will fall from the heavens.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Among other things it is said that the stars will fall upon the earth. The stars are endless and innumerable, and modern mathematicians have established and proved scientifically that the globe of the sun is estimated to be about one million and a half times greater than the earth, and each of the fixed stars to be a thousand times larger than the sun. If these stars were to fall upon the surface of the earth, how could they find place there? It would be as though a thousand million of Himalaya mountains were to fall upon a grain of mustard seed. According to reason and science this thing is quite impossible. What is even more strange is that Christ said: 'Perhaps I shall come when you are yet asleep, for the coming of the Son of man is like the coming of a thief.' Perhaps the thief will be in the house, and the owner will not know it. (1 Thess. 5:2, 2 Pet. 3:10). It is clear and evident that these signs have symbolic signification, and that they are not literal."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 111)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Hence, it is clear and manifest that by the words "the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven" is intended the waywardness of the divines, and the annulment of laws firmly established by divine Revelation, all of which, in symbolic language, have been foreshadowed by the Manifestation of God."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 41)

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 13:10 "For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine." Isaiah 13:13 "Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger."**

There are some instances in the Old Testament of the Bible where similar references are made to a darkened sun, a moon that doesn't shine and the heavens being shaken, that should be looked at. In the thirteenth chapter of Isaiah we find references made to the fall of Babylon and the heavenly signs that will accompany the destruction of Babylon.

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 13:5 "They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land." Isaiah 13:6 "Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty." Isaiah 13:7 "Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:" Isaiah 13:8 "And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames." Isaiah 13:9 "Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." Isaiah 13:10 "For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to**

shine." Isaiah 13:11 "And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible." Isaiah 13:13 "Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger." Isaiah 13:19 "And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah." In this prophecy from Isaiah, Isaiah foretells of the destruction of Babylon and the signs that would accompany the event. Isaiah foretells of the stars not giving their light and the sun being darkened, while the moon doesn't shine and the heavens are shaken and the earth moved out of her place. History doesn't record a time back in the days of the fall of the Babylon that was known to the Chaldeans, when the stars didn't give light, the sun was darkened, the moon didn't shine, the heavens shook and the earth was moved out of its place, and I don't think it was an oversight. For one thing we wouldn't be here if the earth had moved out of its place. All life on the planet would have been extinguished in the global wide devastation that would have occurred on the planet by the earth shifting out of its axis. Another thing to think about, the sun, the moon and the stars are still all shining up in the sky even though the event foretold by Isaiah, the fall of the Chaldeans in Babylon, occurred centuries ago; and, there is no known history that recorded anywhere, a time, when all that was up in the heavens went pitch black, which is exactly what would have happened if the sun, the moon and the stars all stopped shining all at once. There would have been pandemonium all across the face of the planet, it would have been recorded down in history by many cultures and civilizations. A day and time like that would have been remembered the whole world over, and yet nothing is mentioned in any of the various histories from around the world about such a dreadful day.

There are no recordings of such a day because the prophecy of Isaiah was filled with symbolisms about events that were to occur symbolically about the fall of Babylon. The prophecy of the darkening of the sun, the moon and the stars was never meant to be taken literally. It was the symbol of events that were to occur that were left

open to the interpretation of the people to pick between the people that had seeing eyes and those that don't.

That is not to say these events did not occur literally somewhere on the earth like the dark day of New England occurred in a literal sense to a limited extent. It's just that it wasn't the earth shaking event that those people listening to Isaiah would have been expecting, but something subtle.

Glory of the Lord came through the Gate or door.

425. Glory of the Lord came through the Gate or door.

 **JUDAISM: Ezekiel 43:4 "And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east." Bahá'u'lláh, whose name means The Glory of God or The Glory of the Lord, first became a follower of the Báb whose name means the door or gate. Bahá'u'lláh became a Bábí, which means he came by way of the gate; The Báb also lived in Persia so his prospect is toward the east. Bahá'u'lláh came from Persia which is to the east of the river Chebar by old Babylon, modern day Baghdad, where Ezekiel had this vision.**

 **JUDAISM: Ezekiel 43:1 "Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east:" When a person becomes a follower of Bahá'u'lláh, a Bahá'í, Bahá'u'lláh brings them to the Báb, the gate, who lived in Persia to the east. Jeremiah 7:2 "Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house."**

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 5:8 "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:9 "Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door." Bahá'u'lláh, the judge for our day, stands before the door, the Báb, to judge all of mankind.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The Báb and His followers were taken with the view of undermining the very foundations of Shi'ih orthodoxy, and thus paving the way for the coming of Bahá'u'lláh."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 214)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 10:2 "he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep." Bahá'u'lláh, who entered by the door is the one shepherd for all mankind, the sheep. Revelations 3:8 "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it:" The Báb, the door, was the forerunner to Bahá'u'lláh's revelation. So, the Báb was the open door set before Baha'u'llah before his mission started.**

"No man could shut this door. 'The authorities of Persia tried to execute the Báb before he was finished with his mission the Báb stated 'Not until I have said to him all these things I wish to say,' the Báb warned, 'can any earthly power silence me. Though all the world be armed against Me, yet shall they be powerless to deter Me from fulfilling, to the last word, My intention.'"

(William Sears, Release the Sun, p. 172)

"A seven hundred and fifty gun firing squad tried and was unable to harm him. Later when The Bab was through with his conversation he told them 'I have finished My conversation,' He said. "You may now proceed to fulfill your duty."

(William Sears, Release the Sun, p. 175)

The promised one shall come from the east.

426. The promised one shall come from the east. In the bible there are numerous references to the messiah, the return of Christ, coming to the holy land from the east. Christianity: Matthew 24:27

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." ✡ **Judaism: Ezekiel 43:2 "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory." Bahá'u'lláh's name means the glory of God, or in this case his title is The Glory of the God of Israel, and he came from Persia which is to the east of Israel.**

✡ **JUDAISM: Ezekiel 43:4 "And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east." Bahá'u'lláh, whose name means The Glory of the Lord, first became a follower of the Báb whose name means the door or the gate; so Bahá'u'lláh came by way of the gate whose prospect is to the east. Bahá'u'lláh came from Persia which is to the east of the river Chebar by old Babylon, modern day Baghdad, where Ezekiel had this vision.**

✡ **JUDAISM: Isaiah 42:2 "Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings?" Bahá'u'lláh came from Persia in the east and God has given nations before him. Bahá'u'lláh's faith the Bahá'í Faith has spread throughout the world with national assembles all over the world doing their part to guide humanity to a better way of life, and his faith has the future promise of leading all the nations of the world onto God. Also, Bahá'u'lláh revealed numerous letters to the kings and rulers of the earth making his grand announcement. Some of the rulers scoffed other rulers threw his letter over their back. All these rulers who reacted in a disdainful way lost their rule and their kingdoms to others, thereby demonstrating Bahá'u'lláh's divine authority from on high over the kings of the earth.**

There will be a falling away from the belief in God before the coming of the messiah.

427. There will be a falling away from the belief in God before the coming of the messiah. There is always a falling away

from the worship of God before God sends another manifestation to this earth to educate mankind. If there wasn't, what would the need be of God sending a new messenger to mankind.  Christianity: 2 Thessalonians 2:3 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" Matthew 24:37 "But as the days of Noe (Noah) were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:38 "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark," Matthew 24:39 "And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." The earth was filled with corruption in the days of Noah. The earth will be filled with corruption on the day of Christ's return and like the days of the flood it will come upon mankind suddenly and there will be much confusion. Matthew 24:44 "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 17: 26 "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Luke 27 "They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all." Luke 28 "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; Luke 17:29 "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." Luke 17:30 "Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Again the time of Lot and Noah was a time of spiritual degradation on the earth where the truly God fearing were few in number. It is always like this on the earth when God sends His holy ones. So again I say, 2 Thessalonians 2:3 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" As in the days of Noah and Lot there is a great falling away of the godly believers and a rise of the unbelievers. This is a prerequisite for God sending a prophet. Whenever there is a falling away of the Godly, God sends His Devine Teachers to reawaken a sleeping mankind. These were the conditions in Persia around the year 1844 when this faith began. The Persia of**

the time of Bahá'u'lláh was steeped in degradation and blind superstition where the following of tradition was more important to men than Gods word, while the true religion of God was clouded from the eyes of men.

Heavens rolled up.

428. Heavens rolled up. Judaism: Isaiah 34:4 "And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree." It is not the physical heaven that is being talked about here, but the spiritual, symbolic heaven of religion. Whenever a new manifestation of God comes to this earth the religious teachings, the laws and sacraments are out dated and the heaven of the old faith is symbolically rolled up and a new heaven of laws like a new earth of beliefs are laid down in its place.

With the rolling up of the old and the laying down of the new there comes great consternation in the world. Judaism: Isaiah 34:4 "And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree." With the rolling up of the previous religion traditions, sacraments, practices, laws etc.... there is a great increase in anxiety and confusion on the part of the adherents to the previous religion. The people want to hold onto what is familiar but the teachings just don't seem to be in sync with the day and times. It seems that the laws and practices just don't seem to fit with the problems that the people are facing. It is at such times that God renews his covenant with mankind so that His teachings remain a benefit to mankind. Christianity: Hebrews 8:13 "A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." Hebrews 8:7 "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second."

It is with the coming of the new covenant that the heavens of the older religion, that is being replaced, are rolled up and a new heaven is laid down in its place. ✝ Christianity: Revelations 6:14 "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together." ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 65:17 "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." ✝ Christianity: Revelations 21:1 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away." Revelations 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelations 21:5 "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Soon will the present day order be rolled up, and a new one spread out in its stead,"

(Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, p. 217)

It is with the laying down of the new laws and the new teachings that the consternation from the people arises. People are familiar with the religious teachings they grew up with, and to change their belief causes anxiety in their hearts. Some people overcome their confusion but for others there is only conflict. Some people are so rooted in their belief structure that they would rather fight and persecute the adherents to a new faith rather than let the religion blossom. They did this in the time of Jesus Christ harassing Christ to no end finally crucifying him on a cross. ✝ Christianity: Luke 23:33 "they crucified him," And, his followers also faced persecution and death at the hands of these people. John 15:21 "But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake." It was like this at the time of Christ, it was like this in the time of the Báb and it was also like this in the time of Bahá'u'lláh, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

BAHA'I FAITH: "The nature of the tests which confront the believer may vary from age to age. In the days of the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, tests were mainly in the form of persecution and

martyrdom. The believers were often faced with situations in which they had either to recant their faith in public or give their lives."

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 3, p. 48)

The followers of the new faith face persecution because of the rolling up of the old and the laying down of the new. It has been this way throughout the eons past and it hasn't changed today. With the falling away of the old laws and religious practices, traditions and sacraments fall to the wayside like dust falling off an old carpet that is being rolled up.  Judaism: Isaiah 34:4 "And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down."

With this falling away of the old comes the confusion and persecution we saw at the birth of this faith when the Báb and twenty thousand of his believers were put to death.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "There followed large-scale persecutions of the Bábís in which ultimately more than 20,000 people lost their lives."**

(Misc Baha'i, Brittanica article, p. 2)

We see this same kind of persecution of the faith today in which property is confiscated children are denied education and some people are still imprisoned and put to death. This is what happens with the rolling up of the old heavens and the laying down of the new. This is one of the signs that the revelation brought to the earth by The Báb and Bahá'u'lláh is from God and is not a creation out of the minds of men.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Verily, verily the new heaven and the new earth are come. The holy City, new Jerusalem, hath come down from on high in the form of a maid of heaven, veiled, beauteous, and unique, and prepared for reunion with her lovers on earth. The angelic company of the celestial Concourse have joined in a call that hath rung throughout**

the universe, all loudly and mightily acclaiming: 'Hail, O City of God! Abide Thou, and make Thy habitation with the pure, virtuous and holy servants of Thine; for they are Thy people, and Thou art their Lord.'"

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 350)

(For more information see blessed are the persecuted)

The son of man is revealed.

429. The son of man is revealed. ✝ Christianity: Luke 17:29 "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." Luke 17:30 "Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." The son of man is revealed? This is a good question for thought. There are people who believe that Jesus Christ will physically be coming down on clouds, but this statement from Jesus states that he will be revealed instead. ✡ Judaism: Isaiah 40:5 "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." This indicates that the one sent by God in the last days will already be here, like the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh were, and when the time is right this messenger from the Almighty will reveal himself to mankind thereby coming down on the clouds or in the clouds of people's literalistic unbelief. (See coming down on the clouds and Locations dealing with the prophet's return for more information).

Christ will not be returning in the body he knew on this earth.

430. Christ will not be returning in the body he knew on this earth God will send another prophet in his place. Jesus Christ tells us I go away and come onto you again. ✝ Christianity: John 14:28 "I go away, and come again unto you..... because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I." Christ also tells us, because I

go to the Father, I go away for a little while and in a little while ye will see me because I go to the Father. John 16:16 "A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father." Jesus Christ was crucified a short time later and they did not see him and they wept and lamented. John 16:20 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy." But, your sorrow shall be turned to joy? When Jesus Christ was crucified his body and his religion with him lay in the ground dead to the world and the disciples wept and lamented. But, on the third day Jesus and his religion rose from the grave. That is to say the spirit came back into him and his religion and his disciples seen him again and their sorrow was turned to joy. This clear account from the Apostle John gives us a good understanding of what Christ means when he talks to his disciples about going and coming back again, because Christ clearly states, also in John and also within this same prophecy about his rising from the dead, that when he goes to the father they will not see him again. John 16:10 "I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;" We will see Jesus no more after he goes to the Father. But what about during the second coming? ✡ Judaism: Daniel 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven," One like the son of man came with the clouds. One of the titles that Jesus Christ called himself while alive on this earth was the son of man. Here in Daniel's vision Daniel sees one like the son of man coming in the clouds, not Jesus, not the son of man, but someone like the son of man. ✝ Christianity: Revelations 14:14 "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle." Here John sees again one like the son of man sitting on a cloud with a crown on his head. We know this can not be Jesus because John would tell us if it was Jesus, because he knows Jesus. It was one who is like Jesus, the same spirit the same Christ like qualities. And John tells us this twice so there can be no mistaking it. Revelations 1:13 "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle." Again in Revelations John sees one like the son of man, but who is not the

son of man, but who is taking part in the fulfillment of the spiritual last days.

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 17:12 "But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them." John the Baptist was according to the bible the spiritual return of Elias Luke 1:17 "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias. So shall the son of man suffer of them." John the Baptist the spiritual return of Elias suffered by the hand of the Jewish people because they did not recognize him as the spiritual return of Elias. Jesus is prophesying that the same thing will happen to him at the hand of the people when he returns in his new spiritual human form. Matthew 17:12 "Like-wise shall also the Son of man suffer of them." Likewise will Jesus not be recognized in his new spiritual form and be treated harshly by the people on his return.**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Luke 17:29 "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." Luke 17:30 "Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." The son of man will be revealed. Not seen coming down on physical clouds, but the same Christ like being in his new spiritual form shall reveal himself from amongst the people where he has been living. And, if he is already living here we need to ask our self where he has been living if he was already on this earth, and we find our answer in the bible in Micah who prophesied Bethlehem as the place out of which Jesus would come during his first coming.**  **Judaism: Micah 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah tells us that the one who is to be known as the return of Christ will come from Assyria. Micah 7:12 "In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain." We are given a physical place where he will reveal himself. The prophet Jeremiah writes: Jeremiah 49:38 "And I will set my throne in Elam" (Persia). Christ's throne will be in Persia a**

physical place right here on this earth that was once part of the old Assyrian Empire during the time of Micah.

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;" Jesus goes further then just hinting that another will come down from heaven during the time of the last days and he makes predictions that when he goes another will come back in his place. John 15:26 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"**

Jesus promises to send a comforter onto us when he goes who will take care of us and do for us the things Jesus couldn't do for us, who will testify of Jesus.  Christianity: John 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." Again, Jesus promises to send a comforter after he goes and he will reprove the world of sin and judge mankind. John 16:8 "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:" John 16:12 "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." Jesus has many things to say to them but the time just isn't right. Mankind just isn't spiritually developed enough to hear his message. So, Christ promises to send the spirit of truth who will guide mankind onto all truth. He will not speak of himself but what God tells him he shall speak. John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

Christ clearly promises that when he goes another, the comforter, the spirit of truth, will come next in his place and he shall glorify Jesus while on this earth.  Christianity: John 16:14 "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." John 16:15 "All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you." He, another messenger other than Christ, shall receive that which is Christ's and God's and he will

show it onto the people in his actions and teachings. We know this is another messenger other than Christ because Christ would not be receiving that which is already his, so it must be another messenger receiving that which is of Christ.

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 23:39 "For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." Blessed is he that cometh! Again Jesus refers to the coming of one other than himself that cometh in the name of the Lord. What we will see of Jesus is that the one who comes after Jesus' day will have the same Christ like qualities and will be receiving his message, like Christ, from God. So, in this messenger we will see the same attributes and actions as we saw in Christ.

The lord's resting place is in Zion.

431. The lord's resting place is in Zion. Judaism: Psalms 132:13 "For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation." Psalms 132:14 "This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it." Bahá'u'lláh lived, the last years of his life, at the Mansion of Bahji in a suburb of Akká in Israel, where he died on May 29, 1892 at the age of 74. Zion is another name for Israel in the bible, so Zion not only became his place of habitation, but after Bahá'u'lláh died he was buried beside the Mansion of Bahji, so Zion (Israel) became Bahá'u'lláh's place of rest forever, where he (the lord) will dwell from now on.
"Bahá'u'lláh ascended to the Abha Kingdom on May 29, 1892, at the Mansion of Bahji near 'Akká, Israel."

(Compilations, NSA USA - Developing Distinctive Baha'i Communities)

"The cable bore the news of the ascension of Bahá'u'lláh, informed that His earthly temple would be laid to rest in a house next to the Mansion of Bahji."

(H.M. Balyuzi, Baha'u'llah - The King of Glory, p. 426)

“After the passing of Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá designated the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh at Bahji as a place of pilgrimage.”

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Aqdas, p. 191)

Bahá’u’lláh also fulfills this prophecy spiritually. The world center of the Baha’i Faith is located on the side of Mount Carmel in Israel, so Baha’u’llah is spiritually dwelling in Zion as well.

Great learning at the time of the end.

432. Great learning at the time of the end. ✡ Judaism: Daniel 12:4 “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” In 1844 a report was written by a United States Patent Office official stating that the doors to the U.S. Patent Office should be closed because everything worthwhile had already been invented. From that time foreword the U.S. Patent Office has literally been swamped with new inventions being applied for. If we were to look at a graph of the amount of new inventions being produced we would find an extremely sharp rise in the increase of inventions since 1844. At the time of the end knowledge shall be increase, and this is exactly what has happened since 1844, and all we need to do is look around us to see that this is true.

Since that time we have invented internal combustion engines, airplanes, travel in space. Great strides have been made in medicine, and in the field of electronics; the growth in knowledge is nothing less than astounding: from vacuum tubes to integrated circuits to computers and micro processing, to looking out into the cosmos with space telescopes and space ships and space stations etc... I don’t think anyone will not agree that knowledge has increased since 1844, from electron Microscopes to automobiles and submarines to the

knowledge to completely destroy all life on the planet and cause the planet to become uninhabitable to life as we know it…

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 11:9 "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." Here again we are promised knowledge. The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the lord as the waters cover the sea. 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." In today's world people truly are going to and fro in a mad rush all over the world, and one can easily see such a tremendous increase in the acquisition of knowledge and technology, that since the year of 1844 knowledge has seemed to increase exponentially with the passing of time to the point that knowledge seems to be doubling itself within the passing of only a few short years. I would say that this prophecy from Daniel about travel and increased knowledge has been fulfilled with the coming of the Bahá'í Faith.**

You see, great knowledge again, was supposed to come in the time of the end days, which is also a sign of the return of Jesus Christ to this world: Christianity: Matthew 24:3 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end?" The Báb declared his message to mankind from God on May 23 1844 starting the Bábí religion and later the coming of the Bahá'í Faith. As we can see, the great knowledge of the end days, spoken of by the prophet Daniel and Jesus, began in the year 1844, so I can unequivocally state that both of these prophecies were fulfilled in the year 1844.

Locations dealing with the prophet when he came and where he was to be at.

433. <u>Locations dealing with the prophet when he came and where he was to be at</u>. When we start considering the return spoken of by Jesus Christ we can't just consider the time of the second coming, one also has to consider the location of the second coming as well. I'm sure there are some who believe he will just come in the clouds with angels around him and we don't have to worry about it, but for the people who don't take the bible completely literally, ✝ <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Matthew</u> 11:15 "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear;" there are some people who look at the bible as a book that is symbolic in nature. If we take the time to look in the bible for the location of Christ's first coming we find it when we search the book of Micah. ✡ <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Micah</u> 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." This as I stated is the prophecy that deals with the location of Christ's first coming, Bethlehem.

I found that if one looked more closely in the book of Micah we also find the area of his second coming as well. ✡ <u>Judaism</u>: <u>Micah</u> 7:12 "In that day also he shall come even to thee from Assyria, and from the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and from mountain to mountain." The Assyrian Empire at one time covered great territory during the time of Micah. The prophet Jeremiah writes: <u>Jeremiah</u> 49:38 "And I will set my throne in Elam (Persia). The prophet Ezekiel writes <u>Ezekiel</u> 43:1 "Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east:" <u>Ezekiel</u> 43:2 "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory." Isaiah writes <u>Isaiah</u> 41:2 "Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings." Jesus Christ himself even stated in ✝ <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Matthew</u> 24:27 "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Elam (Persia), modern day Iran, is found to the east of Jerusalem in part of what use to be the old Assyrian Empire. It is here that the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh both came from and where the Báb declared his message from God to mankind.

One of the signs that a prophet is from God is that they renounce and turn away from the world.

434. <u>One of the signs that a prophet is from God is that they renounce and turn away from the world</u>. The prophets of God show no real interest in the transitory things of this earthly life. To them the riches of this life are not found in the objects men possess, but in the spiritual treasures men acquire through living a saintly life. <u>Christianity</u>: <u>Matthew</u> 6:19 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:" <u>Matthew</u> 6:20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:" <u>Matthew</u> 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." <u>Matthew</u> 16:26 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Christ taught that treasures of this world are not worth setting our hopes on and he lived his life in utter poverty trying to teach this principle to mankind. 2 <u>Corinthians</u> 8:9 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." Bahá'u'lláh also lived in abject poverty on this earth as an example to mankind. He asked nothing for himself of the treasures that men possess and was content with little.

<u>BAHA'I FAITH</u>: "By the righteousness of God! It is not Our wish to lay hands on your kingdoms. Our mission is to seize and possess the hearts of men. Upon them the eyes of Baha are fastened. To this testifieth the Kingdom of Names, could ye but comprehend it. Whoso followeth his Lord, will renounce the world and all that is therein;"

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 212)

<u>CHRISTIANITY</u>: <u>Mark</u> 4:19 "The cares of this world.....choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful." Christ tells us that the cares of the

world can hinder us from attaining the spiritual benefits of the word, and if we are not careful we can lose our spiritual way and become entangled in the ornaments of the world.

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 8:36 "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Christ clearly warns us, in words and in actions, that man can become so attached to this world that it can cause him to lose sight of the divine truth and rob him of his spiritual destiny. John 3:31 "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all." Christ tells us he is not earthly but is above the entrapments of this earthly life. He also tells us that if we choose to be heavenly we will not be caught up in the things of this world, but will exist above the ordeals of this life.**

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 8:23 "And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world." Again Christ tells us that he exists above the entanglements of this earthly life and he warns us that if we hold onto the trappings of this life we will lose our spiritual life to the world; but if we turn away from the vanities this life has to offer we can inherit life eternal. John 12:25 "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." Bahá'u'lláh, in the Bahá'í writings, also warns that man must detach himself from the world and cleave onto God:**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "That seeker must at all times put his trust in God, must renounce the peoples of the earth, detach himself from the world of dust, and cleave unto Him Who is the Lord of Lords."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Kitab-i-Iqan, p. 192)

 **CHRISTIANITY: John 17:9 "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine." John 17:11 "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom**

thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." John 17:14 "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." John 17:16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." John 17:18 "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Christ clearly indicates that he, in reality, is not of this world, but that he was sent into this world. John 17:19 "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." Christ tells us that he sanctifies himself from the attachments to this world that we might, by his example, be sanctified from attachments to this world, because, as he tells us, his real kingdom is not of this world. John 18:36 "My kingdom is not of this world:" If his kingdom is not of this world is there any wonder that he holds no real attachment to this world. Bahá'u'lláh tells us that we must wash earthly defilements from our hearts if we wish to enter the kingdom of our Lord:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Wash your hearts from all earthly defilements, and hasten to enter the Kingdom of your Lord, the Creator of earth and heaven, Who caused the world to tremble, and all its peoples to wail, except them that have renounced all things and clung to that which the Hidden Tablet hath ordained...."**

(Baha'u'llah, The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah, p. 5)

 **CHRISTIANITY: James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." We must, like Christ and Bahá'u'lláh, keep ourselves unspotted, or clean from the world for, James tells us, friendship of the world leads to enmity with God. James 4:4 "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." Is there any wonder that the messengers of God show no real attachment to the world?**

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 2:15 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Love not the world. We should be like Christ and hold no real attachments to the world, because we cannot love the world and love God at the same time. It is like fire and water both cannot exist in the heart at the same time. 1 John 2:16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." The things that seem to make up this earthly life, the want of material goods, the desires of the flesh, are not the things of God but are the properties of the world. Christ, like all the messengers of God, didn't allow the wants and desires of the world to come in between him and the worship of his Father. Christ tells us that we must overcome these earthly natures if we are to walk on the paths of God.**

 **CHRISTIANITY: 1 John 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:5 "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" Bahá'u'lláh also lived his life in extreme hardship overcoming the entanglements of the world to promote the word of God and bring God's kingdom to this world.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The same attitude of detachment from earthly things so permeated the souls of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi, the two successive Centers of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, that it was against their nature to turn their affection to the things of this world. They both lived austere lives and followed the example of Bahá'u'lláh."**

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 3, p. 81)

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 10:21 "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me." Jesus had so little interest in the things of this world and the treasures of this life that he**

ask nothing for himself, but told a would be disciple to sell all he had and give all his accumulated wealth to the poor. Jesus had so little interest in the things of this world that he asked nothing for himself that would ease the burden of hardships of his life. Matthew 8:20 "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Jesus didn't hold value in the things of this life nor did those who followed him. It is not the way of God's chosen ones to become embroiled in the vanities of this earthly life, but to leave the treasures of this world to those who desire them.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "For the betterment of the world Bahá'u'lláh endured all the hardships, ordeals and vicissitudes of life, sacrificing His very being and comfort, forfeiting His estates, possessions and honor -- all that pertains to human existence -- not for one year, nay, rather, for nearly fifty years. During this long period He was subjected to persecution and abuse, was cast into prison, was banished from His native land, underwent severities and humiliation and was exiled four times."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 322)

Christ will not be the name used by the holy messenger when he returns.

435. Christ will not be the name used by the holy messenger when he returns; he shall have a new name. When God sends his holy ones to the earth to educate mankind He sends a new prophet with a new name. This has been His way in the past and will be his way in the future. That the prophets resemble each other and can be known as the return of the previous messenger is due to the fact that all the prophets bring the message from the same God and try to teach mankind at the behest of the one and only God, hence the statement from Paul in first Corinthians: Christianity: 1 Corinthians 15:45 "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." All the messengers of God could

be called by the same name and we would be speaking the truth, but if we bear in mind the differences in the times and needs of mankind the prophets can all be considered different, hence the different names of the prophets: Christ, Moses, Abraham, Baha'u'llah etc... So, though Jesus Christ does promise his return: John 14:28 "Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you." Christ also promises another will come: John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another." So, though Jesus does promise to come again he also promises another will come which hints at the sameness and also the difference of the prophets of God. Jesus also tells his disciples not to go and investigate if anyone comes saying I am Christ:

 **CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 24:4 "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you." Matthew 24:5 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Matthew 24:23 "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not." This argues the point that another will be coming with a new name. Christ also tells us that false Christ's will arise and deceive many. Matthew 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24:25 "Behold, I have told you before." Matthew 24:26 "Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not." It seems clear that Jesus Christ is telling us that the name Jesus Christ will not be being used during the return. Mark 13:6 "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Mark 13:21 "And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:" Mark 13:22 "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect."**

Some of the prophets of the bible go one step further then this and state that Christ will be coming with a new name: Isaiah 62:2 "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name." He, the return of Christ, will be called by a new name which

The Lord shall name. Isaiah 30:27 "Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far," from another place then Israel.

John, in Revelations, tells us: Christianity: Revelations 2:17 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." A new name will be given that no man will know save him that receives it. This is, of course, a way of stating that the name Christ will not be used, because John states that no one will know this new name save him that receives it, which means it can't be the name Jesus Christ used because Jesus Christ's name is well known to mankind. Revelations 3:8 "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." Again, the name Jesus Christ is not denied by most of the world that knows of Jesus, which again indicates that a new name will be used that mankind will not know, which man may be inclined to deny. But it doesn't stop there Christ states to John in Revelations that he will have a new name: Revelations 3:12 "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." Christ is clearly stating here that he will have a new name and goes further to state we will be called by a new name as well. Revelations 22:4 "And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads." Judaism: Isaiah 65:15 "And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name:" So, here we have it, as I stated earlier, God sent his holy manifestations in the past as a new person with a new name and He will continue to do so in the future So, we His followers will also have new names as history repeats itself.

Bahá'u'lláh's name is foretold in the holy writings of the bible.

436. Bahá'u'lláh's name is foretold in the holy writings of the bible. Bahá'u'lláh's name, the Glory of God or the Glory of the Lord, is used over and over many times in the Holy Bible by many of the prophets of God. ✝ Christianity: Acts 7:55 "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the (glory of God), and Jesus standing on the right hand of God," These two are seen standing on the right hand of God, Christ and The Glory of God (Bahá'u'lláh), the distinction is clearly made here. Bahá'u'lláh's name means The Glory of God, so Paul is telling us that one under the influence of the Holy Ghost looked up into heaven and saw Bahá'u'lláh and Christ standing together on the right hand side of God, which makes sense because Bahá'u'lláh is also one of the returns of Christ's essence in this world.

✝ CHRISTIANITY: Philippians 2:11 "And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the (glory of God) the Father." The father was also one of Bahá'u'lláh's titles, so Paul is saying that every tongue should confess the lordship of Jesus Christ to the Father (Bahá'u'lláh) The Glory of God, which happens when a person becomes a Bahá'í there by accepting Christ and accepting Christianity as one of God's true religions.

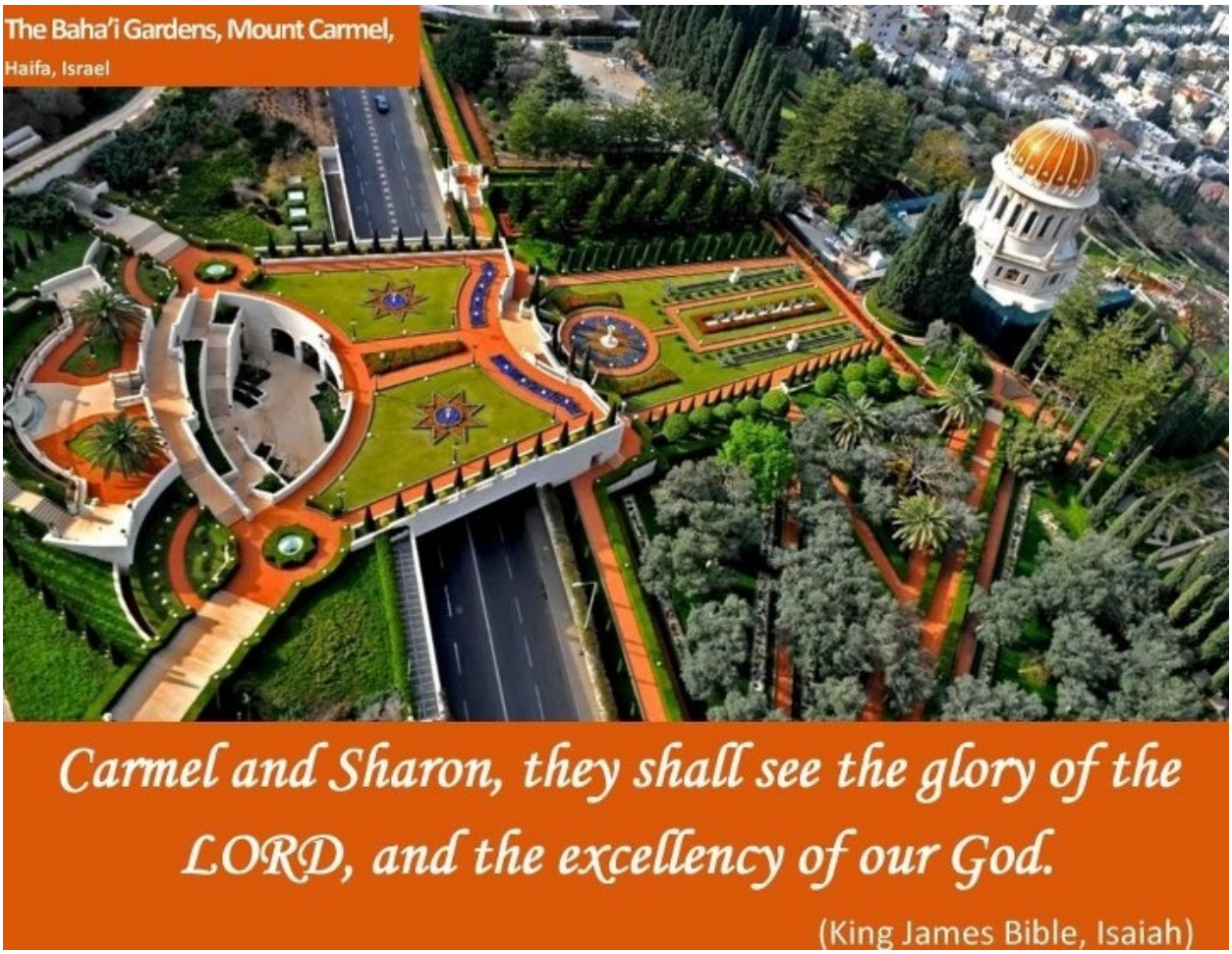
✝ CHRISTIANITY: Revelations 15:8 "And the temple was filled with smoke from the (glory of God), and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple," Here the presence of Bahá'u'lláh, in the temple, is prophesied by St. John in the book of Revelations, but John doesn't stop there. Revelations 21:10 "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God," Revelations 21:11 "Having the (glory of God): and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;" Revelations 21:23 "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the (glory of God did lighten it), and the Lamb is the

light thereof." John prophesied that Bahá'u'lláh would descend out of the heavens with the holy city Jerusalem (the law) and the city would have no need of light for Bahá'u'lláh would be the light of the city, or in other words, Bahá'u'lláh would spiritually lighten up the city of New Jerusalem, which is another way of saying that Bahá'u'lláh would bring a new revelation and new laws down to mankind.

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 16:27 "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Jesus is telling us that he shall come in or be in The Glory of The Father, which is another way of saying Jesus will come in or be a part of The Glory of God (Bahá'u'lláh). When we bear in mind the unity and oneness of the prophets (see oneness of The Prophets of God for more information) we see that this statement is true. The teachings of Jesus, and the spirit of Jesus are both found in Bahá'u'lláh and in his teachings 1 Peter 1:10 "The prophets - come unto you: - the Spirit of Christ which was in them." (which is in them) (see The Laws of God and The promised one shall glorify Jesus Christ for more information).

The title The Glory of the Lord is also used much in the bible in Isaiah and Ezekiel and this is just another way of saying the Glory of God for those who perceive: Judaism: Isaiah 35:2 "It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the (glory of the LORD), and the excellency of our God." The Glory of the Lord or The Glory of God (Bahá'u'lláh), who visited mount Carmel in the valley of Sharon, when he was alive, so Carmel and Sharon saw Bahá'u'lláh when he was alive, shall be seen on Carmel and in Sharon, which has bloomed, so these are true statements known to anyone who has visited Mount Carmel in Haifa Israel, which is the seat of the Universal House of Justice of the Bahá'í Faith for the world, see below:




The Baha'i Gardens, Mount Carmel,
Haifa, Israel
Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.
(King James Bible, Isaiah)



JUDAISM: Isaiah 40:4 "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places plain:" Isaiah 40:5 "And the (glory of the LORD) shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." Isaiah 42:18 "Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see." Isaiah 59:20 "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD." Isaiah 59:21 "As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever." Isaiah 60:1 "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee." The Glory of the Lord did come to Zion (Israel). Bahá'u'lláh was exiled to the prison city of Akká in Israel for his forth and final banishment during his life. Later the Universal House of Justice was erected on the side of Mount Carmel in Israel (Zion) so the Glory of the Lord (Bahá'u'lláh) has risen upon thee as foretold by the prophet Isaiah over two thousand years before the event.

 **JUDAISM: Ezekiel 1:28 "As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD, (the glory of God). And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake." Ezekiel in his vision sees the Glory of the Lord or the Glory of God, by the river of Chebar, also known as the river Khabar located west of Baghdad. Ezekiel 3:12 "Then the spirit took me up, and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, saying, Blessed be the glory of the LORD from his place." Ezekiel 3:23 "Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face." Again, Ezekiel sees Bahá'u'lláh standing as he did by the river Chebar, only this time he is standing on the plane. Ezekiel 10:4 "Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD'S glory." Ezekiel 43:1 "Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east:" Ezekiel 43:2 "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory." The Glory of the God of Israel is just another way of saying The Glory of the Lord or The Glory of God, and Bahá'u'lláh came from Persia to the east of the Chebar river where Ezekiel had his vision near Babylon, modern day Baghdad. Ezekiel 43:4 "And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east." Bahá'u'lláh became a follower of the Báb, whose title means The Gate, in the years preceding his announcement of his mission from God, and he was born in Persia so he came from the east of where Ezekiel was having his visions.**

 **JUDAISM: Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." The teachings of the Glory of the Lord do in-fact cover or fill the earth; The teachings of Bahá'u'lláh are found in all the countries and cities all around the world and in the future his teachings will be known in every household for all to behold.**

JUDAISM: Psalms 104:30 "Thou sendest forth Thy spirit, they are created: and Thou renewest the face of the earth." Psalms 104:31 "The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever; the LORD shall rejoice in his works." David tells us that Bahá'u'lláh's influence shall endure forever and God shall rejoice in his works. The teachings of this dispensation from Bahá'u'lláh are so enlightened that there will not be another dispensation the likes of this for the next 500,000 years, so Bahá'u'lláh's influence will endure from this day forward whether Bahá'u'lláh's name is remembered or not. So, Psalms 138:4 "All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth." Psalms 138:5 "Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD." It seems clear that The Glory of God, The Glory of the Lord and The Glory of the God of Israel, are all names that refer to Bahá'u'lláh and the coming of Bahá'u'lláh only enforces the accounts given in the bible and the prophecies of the bible.

Nations shall be given onto him and he shall rule over kings.

437. Nations shall be given onto him and he shall rule over kings. Judaism: Daniel 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man (one like Christ, a holy manifestation like Jesus) came with the clouds of heaven (came in the clouds of heaven), and came to the Ancient of days (was before God), and they brought him near before him." Daniel 7:14 "And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed (his teachings will be of the nature as to last forever and his dominion will last from now on)." Bahá'u'lláh will care for mankind and dispense justice to the kingdoms and nations of the world through The Universal House of Justice, and through that God's laws will reach mankind.

 **JUDAISM: Isaiah 42:2 "Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings?" Bahá'u'lláh came from Persia to the east of where Isaiah made his home and, as the prophecy foretold, God has given nations before him. Bahá'u'lláh's faith, the Bahá'í Faith, has spread throughout the world with national assembles all over the world doing their part to guide humanity to a better way of life, and his faith has the future promise of leading all the nations of the world onto God. Also, Bahá'u'lláh revealed numerous letters to the kings and rulers of the earth making his grand announcement. Some of the rulers scoffed, other rulers threw his letter over their back. All these rulers who rejected his message in a disdainful way lost the rule of their kingdoms to others, thereby demonstrating Bahá'u'lláh's divine authority from on high over the kings of the earth.**  **Judaism: Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:7 "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."**

One of the things Bahá'u'lláh (The Glory of God) did when he revealed himself to mankind was bring a new planned form of government that will lead humanity into a golden age, on earth like it is in heaven, promised to us by Matthew,  **Christianity: Matthew 6:10 "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven," and Luke, Luke 11: 2 "And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth." With this new governmental outline the government would be on his shoulders as prophesied by Isaiah, and some of Bahá'u'lláh's numerous titles were Wonderful Consular, comforter and Prince of Peace to name just a few.**

We will have a new name.

438. We will have a new name. Christianity: Revelations 3:12 "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name." We will have a new name other than Christians with the coming of the next manifestation from God. With the coming of each manifestation of God his followers have been called by a new name as the prophet has been known by a new name. Judaism: Isaiah 62:2 "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name." This is just another way of saying God will write a new name on us. Isaiah 65:15 "And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name:" Isaiah clearly states that the servants of God will be known by a new name other than the one of current use amongst men. Christianity: Revelations 22:4 "And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads." We will have the name of the new manifestation of God in our foreheads, or in our thoughts, which will be part of the new name we will be going by.

BAHA'I FAITH: "These are they who are blessed by the Concourse on high, who are glorified by the denizens of the everlasting Cities, and beyond them by those on whose foreheads Thy most exalted pen hath written: 'These! The people of Baha. Through them have been shed the splendors of the light of guidance."

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 83)

Followers of Bahá'u'lláh go by the name Bahá'ís and we have the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh in our thoughts and in our hearts so we have his name in our foreheads.

Christ will go and will send another.

439. Christ will go and will send another (the comforter, the spirit of truth). Judaism: Daniel 7:13 "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven," One appeared, in Daniels vision, like the son of man or like Christ, but not Christ, not the son of man but one different; one who is like the son of man. Christianity: John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;" Christ promises the people that the Father will send another at his behest; a comforter. The comforter is one of the titles that Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet founder of the Bahá'í Faith, went by on this earth. John 15:26 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:" Jesus Christ clearly indicates that the comforter and the spirit of truth are one and the same, which is a person different from the person of Jesus Christ, but someone who Christ and the Father will send to mankind who will testify of Jesus, not be Jesus. John 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." Jesus states again that he will send, him, (another person other than himself) unto the people and it will not be Jesus coming again onto us, but a new person known as the comforter.

CHRISTIANITY: John 16:12 "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." John 16:14 "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." Clearly Jesus indicates that the spirit of truth and the comforter that will be coming after him are different from himself and therefore a manifestation from God other than Jesus Christ, but with the same Christ like qualities. Bahá'u'lláh, as I stated earlier, was known by many different titles among them The Comforter and The Spirit of Truth:

"To Bahá'u'lláh, Jesus, the Christ, referred as the 'Prince of this world,' the 'Comforter' Who will 'reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement,' the 'Son of Man' Who 'shall come in the glory of His Father,' the 'Lord of the Vineyard,' 'the "Spirit of Truth,' Who 'will guide you to all truth.'"

(William Sears, Release the Sun, p. 233)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Bahá'u'lláh who in the Old Testament hath been named Jehovah, Who in the Gospel hath been designated as the Spirit of Truth"

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 2, p. 77)

Bahá'u'lláh was not only known by these titles he also, as Jesus prophesied, was known to have glorified Jesus greatly and to have received of Christ's teachings and delivered it back to the people for them to better know the works of Jesus.

(See The promised one shall glorify Jesus Christ and He shall receive of mine and shew it unto you for more information).

Not see the Lord.

440. Not see the Lord. Christianity: Hebrews 12:14 "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" There are some people who are expecting to see the lord coming down on clouds and all eyes will see him, but Paul tells us this isn't so. Paul tells us that only the holy will see the lord Hebrews 12:14 "....holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Which can only mean that those individuals whose hearts are not pure and spiritual will not see the lord when he comes; which can only mean that all eyes will see can only be taken as a spiritual symbolic statement and not a physical, literal event the way some people expect it to be. I'm sure some people will see him when he comes but of those people

only the individuals whose hearts are holy whose eyes are spiritually open will see him for what he is, while the others, they will be like the people Paul talks about that see but don't understand what they are seeing: ✝ Christianity: Acts 28:26 "Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive."

(see all eyes will see and coming down on the clouds for more information).

There are other sheep not of this fold I will make them one fold.

441. There are other sheep not of this fold I will make them one fold. In the writings of the Bahá'í Faith it stresses the oneness of all the religions: (see oneness of religions). In the bible this is not stressed so mush, though we can see the oneness of religion in action if we follow the holy covenant. In the bible there is no clear expression of the oneness of religion so to speak, but Jesus Christ hints to the readers of the bible that the other religions are there by talking about other sheep and telling us they need to be brought together into one fold: ✝ Christianity: John 10:16 "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." John 10:16 "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold." There are other religions, other people, that are not of this faith. John 10:16 "them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." All the religions must be gathered together into one religion under one messenger believing in one God.

Jesus Christ was not able to do that during his time on this earth and the time was not right for the unity of all religions. Bahá'u'lláh, the one shepherd of mankind promised to us by Jesus Christ so long ago, is the voice of Christ for today calling to all mankind telling him of the oneness of God, the oneness of man and the oneness of religion:

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "His Holiness Bahá'u'lláh has announced that the foundation of all the religions of God is one; that oneness is truth and truth is oneness which does not admit of plurality."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 246)

For today Bahá'u'lláh is the one shepherd and the Bahá'í Faith is the one fold promised to us by Jesus. When a person becomes a Bahá'í they accept the other religions of the earth as one religion and all religionist as the followers of one faith.

It should be noted that by one faith is not meant the Catholics and the Baptists etc... becoming unified as I have heard some Christians claim? During the time of Christ's existence on this earth the Baptists and the Catholics did not even exist on this earth, not to mention that both of these religious sects all belong to the same Christian fold. Christianity is not the other religious folds spoken of by Jesus Christ; Jesus is talking about the other God fearing religions of God, of course.

He shall not speak of himself but what God tells him to speak!

442. He shall not speak of himself but what God tells him to speak! God speaks to mankind through the mouths of the prophets. Moses indicated this in Exodus: Judaism: Exodus 4:15 "And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do." God was with the mouth of Moses while he was on this earth. Moses didn't speak for himself but spoke that which God told him to speak. Moses also prophesied that God would raise up a prophet like Moses and God would put the words into his mouth. Deuteronomy 18:18 "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I

shall command him." We now know that prophet to be Jesus Christ who spoke by God's command. ✝ Christianity: John 8:26 "I have many things to say and to judge of you: but He that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of Him." John 8:27 "They understood not that he spake to them of the Father." John 8:28 "Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." John 8:29 "And He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him." Jesus tells us he does the things that please the Father and he speaks what the Father commands: John 12:49 "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, He gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak."

Jesus, like Moses before him, also prophesied that the next prophet to come after him, the spirit of truth, in this case, will not speak of himself but will speak the things God tells him to speak. ✝ Christianity: John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." Bahá'u'lláh (The Glory of God) came as prophesied by Christ and he did not speak of himself, but he spoke by God's command that which God wanted said.

BAHA'I FAITH: "This Wronged One speaketh wholly for the sake of God,"

(Baha'u'llah, Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 18)

BAHA'I FAITH: "I speak naught except at His bidding, and follow not, through the power of God and His might, except His truth. He, verily, shall recompense the truthful."

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 126)

A star or a sign appears in the heavens.

443. A star or a sign appears in the heavens. With the coming of Jesus Christ there was a star or sign that appeared in the physical heavens to announce the coming of Jesus Christ. Christianity: Matthew 2:2 "Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." Matthew 2:9 "When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." With these two statements we are told that there was a physical sign that appeared in the heavens announcing the advent of Jesus Christ. Something found in the Bahá'í writings that we should also consider, many times when the bible is talking about literal events such as a star appearing in the sky there is generally a spiritual or symbolic significant meaning to be found in the holy words of the scriptures as-well (see symbolism in the bible for more information). In the writings of the bible there are found verses that tell us that there was also a spiritual star or sign in the spiritual heavens announcing the coming of Jesus Christ as-well. That is what John the Baptist was doing in the wilderness; he was announcing the coming of Jesus unto the people.

CHRISTIANITY: Matthew 3:1 "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea," Matthew 3:2 "And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." John the Baptist was the spiritual star in the spiritual heavens announcing the coming of Jesus Christ onto the people of his day. Another thing that is talked about in the bible though less commonly known is that there was also a sign in heaven promised by Jesus for the coming of the next messiah. Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:" Matthew 24:30 "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven." With this one statement from Jesus we know that before the advent of the next messiah there will be a sign in the physical sky like there was a sign in the physical heaven announcing the first coming of Jesus Christ. In 1844, the very year the Báb

declared his holy mission from God to the world, an astronomer named Bessel advanced a theory that he believed Sirius, one of the brightest stars in our sky, was in fact a double star and not a single star. In 1862, the very year Bahá'u'lláh declared he was the holy messenger promised by Jesus Christ to the world, an astronomer names Alvan Clark announced that Bessel's theory was in fact correct Sirius was a double star.

Some people might be inclined to say Sirius doesn't count because it was already seen in the night sky before this time, but these two incidents by no means exhaust the number of signs that appeared in the heavens around this time frame. In 1843 the year before the Báb declared he was a messenger from God a giant comet appeared in the day time sky even before it was seen at night. This comet was so big its tail was 105 million miles long. You might be asking why I would be talking about a comet instead of a star but in the bible Jesus Christ's star moved, Christianity: Matthew 2:9 "and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." Stars are fixed points in the sky they are not seen moving, but a comet would be a star in the sky of those times that could be seen moving from the east to the west and could be followed. This comet was by no means the only comet seen in the sky of those times either. In November 1845 another comet, Biela's comet, appeared in the heavens only unlike the previous comet of 1843 this comet split into two halves in January of 1846 becoming a binary comet like Sirius was discovered to be a double star. Of interest, this comet disappeared in 1846 only to reappear in August of 1852, the very month and year Baha'u'llah was put into the pit an underground prison in Teheran where God revealed Bahá'u'lláh's mission to him. This is not the only thing that was unusual about this comet. One half of the comet had faded into the background appearing three weeks after the first half of the comet had appeared. This part of the comet had become dim of light like the teachings of the Báb fading into the background, while the first part of the comet now dominated the sky as Bahá'u'lláh began to take charge of the mission from God. This was by no means the end of the unusual events taking place in the heavens around this time period, but it is enough for my purpose here (for more

information on this subject go to Signs in the earth and in the heavens).

A thing to be kept in mind is the coming of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh in the mid eighteen hundreds was like the coming of Jesus Christ two thousand years before. Though there were physical signs in the physical heavens to alert us to their coming there were also spiritual signs in the spiritual heavens announcing their coming as well. Like John the Baptist announcing the impending advent of Jesus Christ to the world there were also two heralds, Shaykh Ahmad and Siyyid Kazim, that came before The Báb and Bahá'u'lláh to announce their coming to the world.

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Both Shaykh Ahmad and Siyyid Kazim -- the twin luminaries.... heralded the advent of the Faith of the Báb."**

(Shoghi Effendi, Citadel of Faith, p. 100)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "We perceived no one sufficiently mature to acquire from Us the truths which God hath taught Us, nor ripe for Our wondrous words of wisdom.'"**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 126)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "Know ye that trials and tribulations have, from time immemorial, been the lot of the chosen Ones of God and His beloved, and such of His servants as are detached from all else but Him, they whom neither merchandise nor traffic beguile from the remembrance of the Almighty, they that speak not till He hath spoken, and act according to His commandment."**

(Baha'u'llah, Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah, p. 129)

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "I lay asleep on my couch, O my God, when lo, the gentle winds of Thy grace and Thy loving-kindness passed over me,**

and wakened me through the power of Thy sovereignty and Thy gifts, and bade me arise before Thy servants, and speak forth Thy praise, and glorify Thy word."

(Baha'u'llah, Prayers and Meditations by Baha'u'llah, p. 305)

BAHA'I FAITH: "By the righteousness of God! I speak not falsely, and utter naught save that which God hath bidden Me."

(Baha'u'llah, The Summons of the Lord of Hosts, p. 207)

The coming of the Bahá'í Universal House of Justice was prophesied by Ezekiel, Isaiah and Micah.

JUDAISM: Ezekiel 43:12 "This is the law of the house (The Universal House of Justice); Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house." Ezekiel 43:11 "And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them." The laws of God will be disseminated into the world in the future by The Universal House of Justice.

And

JUDAISM: Isaiah 2:1 "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem." Isaiah 2:2 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." Isaiah 2:3 "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the

LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." Isaiah 2:4 "And He (God and Baha'u'llah), shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Isaiah 2:5 "O house of Jacob, come ye (then), and let us walk in the light of The LORD." (King James Bible)

 **JUDAISM: Micah 4:1 "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it."**



 **JUDAISM: Micah 4:2 "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." Micah 4:3 "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Micah 4:4 "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it." Micah 4:5 "For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever." Micah 4:6 "In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; 4:7 And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever."**

The Bahá'í Universal House of Justice built in the middle of the spacious Bahá'í gardens on Mount Carmel is a magnificent white marble edifice devoted to dissemination of the laws of God to the whole earth. Bahá'u'lláh himself assures the infallibility of the judgments of the elected body, so the people of the earth can be assured of unerring guidance from God:



“The Universal House of Justice, to be universally elected and established, are both under the care and protection of the Abha Beauty, under the shelter and unerring guidance of His Holiness, the Exalted One.

(Abdu'l-Baha, Baha'i World Faith - Abdu'l-Baha Section, p. 442)

The Righteous shall walk upon the wicked unbelievers.

JUDAISM: Malachi 4:1 “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” 4:2 “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of

the stall." 4:3 "And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts."

In the days of Bahá'u'lláh the wicked did all they could do to trouble Bahá'u'lláh and hinder the Faith. When these people died all their doings came to naught! Now-a-days, symbolically, the remains, or ashes of the wicked, are walked on, by Baha'is from all over the world, pretty much every day, as the structures where they lived were destroyed and the remains of these buildings was used to make walkways for the believers to walk on; so this prophesy from Malachi is, in fact, basically true in today's world.

There shall be three woes!!!

There will be three woes of the prophets: ✝ Christianity: Revelation 8:13 "And I (John) beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhibiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!" These woes are the three manifestations, or messengers of God that are yet to sound, or bring their message to mankind. For Revelation 9:12 "One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter." The first woe, spoken of here is Muhammad, with the coming of Islam; the first religion and prophet of God to appear on this earth after the death of Jesus Christ. Revelation 11:13 "And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven." This statement from The Apostle John, out of the book of Revelations, is now, in reality, a very, real matter of Eastern history, in the writings of the Bábí religion and The Bahá'í religion, as well as modern Human history, for anyone who is interested? ✵Bahá'í Faith: "In Shiraz (in Persia, modern day Iran) an 'earthquake, foreshadowed in no less weighty a Book than the Revelation of St. John, occurred in 1268 A.H., which threw the whole city into turmoil and wrought havoc amongst its people, a havoc that

was greatly aggravated by the outbreak of cholera, by famine and other afflictions (in which many thousands of people died).” (Bahá’í Faith, Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, p. 53) And, Revelation 11:14 “The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.”

With the execution and murder of The Báb, The Gateway of God on this earth, the second woe was now completed with the coming of the great earthquake in Shiraz. Revelation 11:14 “And, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.” Bahá’u’lláh, the prophet founder of The Bahá’í Faith, declared himself and his message from God, for all of mankind, just a few, short years after the execution and murder of The Báb; and the whole world has been trying to recover and reach a spiritual equilibrium ever since: Revelation 11:15 “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” This is, in fact, the reality that The Bahá’ís envision for the future of this earth, and that each one of these people are trying to help bring about in their own little way.

 **JUDAISM: Ezekiel 2:9 “And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; 2:10 And he (the angel) spread it (the scroll) before me; and it was written within and without (the word and message of God was plane to see): and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.” Ezekiel 3:1 “Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest (accept and understand what-so-ever you see); eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel.” Ezekiel was supposed to take this message to Israel as a warning to them and a prophecy of things to come! Ezekiel And 30:1 “The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,” Ezekiel 30:2 “Son of man, prophesy and say: Thus saith, The Lord GOD; Howl ye, Woe worth the day!” 30:3 “for the day is near even, the day of the LORD is near.” Whenever God sends His manifestations to this earth there is a woe or an upheaval that seizes man the likes of which is rarely seen on this earth. It creates tremendous conflict and turmoil in religion and human society and much dissension throughout the family of man: for Ezekiel 30:2 “Howl ye, Woe worth the day,” or The Woe is the day of God! Or, Woe is worth the day, or is the day of The Lord; and**

we also know, that this is also a day of prophecy, because Ezekiel plainly tells us, he is to prophesy and say to the people, of Israel, that which he is told to say…

 **JUDAISM: Amos 5:18 "Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! To what end is it for you? The day of the LORD is darkness, and not light, (The day of the Lord is filled with hardship and turmoil). Therefore the LORD, the God of hosts, the LORD, saith thus; Wailing shall be in all (the) streets; and they shall say in all the highways, Alas! alas! and they shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are skillful of lamentation to wailing." Amos 5:17 "And in all (the) vineyards shall be wailing: for I will pass through thee, saith the LORD (The Lord will come, or the manifestation of God will come and make an appearance on this earth)." "As if a man (any man) did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him." "Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? Even very dark, and no brightness in it?" In the day of the Lord or the day of woe, there will be much chaos and turmoil on the earth; as there is always much chaos and turmoil on the earth, and always much chaos and turmoil in the world and society of humanity; whenever the manifestation of God comes to man, with a new message from God for mankind to learn and accept; because, whenever the day of The Lord comes, there is always invariably, much opposition, darkness and hatred, for God's new word and message to mankind, and there is always much, extremely, hostile opposition to the new teacher and manifestation of God for mankind…**

 **CHRISTIANITY: Mark 13:12 "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death." These were the conditions with the coming of Muhammad, which we consider to be the first woe after Jesus Christ. These were also the conditions with the coming of the Báb, the second woe. As for the third woe that cometh quickly this was the mission of Bahá'u'lláh, which came only a few short years after the killing and butchery of over 20,000 Bábí believers and the martyrdom of the Báb.**

 **BAHA'I FAITH: "The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. The first woe is the appearance of the Prophet, Muhammad, the son of Abdu'llah -- peace be upon Him! The second woe is that of the Báb -- to Him be glory and praise! The third woe is the great day of the manifestation of the Lord of Hosts and the radiance of the Beauty of the Promised One. The explanation of this subject, woe, is mentioned in the thirtieth chapter of Ezekiel, where it is said: 'The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Howl ye, Woe worth the day! For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near.'" [1 Rev. 11:14.] [2 Ez. 30:1-3.] (So) Therefore, it is certain that the day of woe is the day of the Lord; for in that day woe is for the neglectful, woe is for the sinners, (and) woe is for the ignorant. That is why it is said, 'The second woe is past; behold the third woe cometh quickly!' This third woe is (of course) the day of the manifestation of Bahá'u'lláh, The Day of God; and it is near to the day of the appearance of the Báb."**

(Abdu'l-Baha, Some Answered Questions, p. 55)

Words and book sealed until the time of the end.

444. Words and book sealed until the time of the end. The big question! Why so much confusion about the 2nd coming of Christ? There has been much confusion over the centuries as to the true meaning of many of the prophecies dealing with the second coming of Christ; but the true understandings were never meant to be understood until the time of the end, as attested to by Daniel the prophet: Judaism: Daniel 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:8 "And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" Daniel 12:9 "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." The prophet Daniel did not comprehend the meaning of the visions he saw because the words were sealed from his understanding. The prophet

Isaiah also had something to say about the closed nature of the books as well: Judaism: Isaiah 29:11 "And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed."

I cannot read this because it is sealed. It is no wonder humanity was not able to decipher the closed nature of these major prophecies, man was never meant to until the time when Christ would appear with angles with a new name as attested to by Christ himself: Christianity: Matthew 24:44 "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." John 24: 36 "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Mark 13: 32 "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father."

So, it was not to be expected that mankind was going to be able to understand these words from the past easily. Christianity: 2 Peter 1:20 "no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." 2 Peter 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." It was only after the year 1844, as prophecies mentioned earlier attest to that the true meaning of these verses came to light with the true opening of these books (see Abomination of desolation for more information).

BAHA'I FAITH: "The Kitáb-i-Íqán, Bahá'u'lláh's Most Holy Book. Revealed on the eve of the declaration of His Mission, it proffered to mankind the 'Choice Sealed Wine,' whose seal is of 'musk,' and broke the 'seals' of the 'Book' referred to by Daniel, and disclosed the meaning of the 'words' destined to remain 'closed up' till the 'time of the end.'"

(Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, p. 138)

If anyone has some difficulty believing that the seals are broken and the books are open we only have to look back to the words of Daniel concerning the unsealing of the book: Judaism: Daniel 12:4 "shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased at the time of the end. I don't think there is anyone who wouldn't agree that this has happened. In today's world people truly are going to and fro in a mad rush all over the planet, and one can hardly argue that there has not been a tremendous increase in the acquisition of knowledge. Since the year of 1844; knowledge has seemed to increase exponentially with the passing of time to the point that knowledge seems to double itself within the passing of only a few years.

BAHA'I FAITH: "Until the Kitáb-i-Íqán was revealed, the significance of the Missions of all the Prophets of God, the purpose of Their Revelations and the true meaning of Their words had remained undisclosed. With the revelation of this book, the significance of the 'words' which according to Daniel were 'closed up and sealed till the time of the end' became apparent. The 'seal' which Providence for thousands of years had placed upon the Holy Books of all religions was removed."

(Adib Taherzadeh, The Revelation of Baha'u'llah v 1, p. 160)

Worldly cares and concerns blind the people.

445. Worldly cares and concerns blind the people. Worldly concerns can and do interfere with the recognition of God's messengers. Some people get so caught up in trying to make a life for themselves in this world that they fail to give any time to listen when the wonderful news of God's holy one comes to them. Like in the days of Noah they are so busy fighting to eke out a living, they don't feel they have the time to listen to God's new word for the day or they don't feel they can give time to one more thing on their plate; but this is one of the conditions that is to be expected for Christ's return. Christ

himself tells us: Christianity: Matthew 24:37 "But as the days of Noe (Noah) were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:38 "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark," Matthew 24:39 "And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:44 "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Many of the people of today are so wrapped up in worldly concerns that we find the world like in the days of Noah with the people literally blinded to anything but their own concerns. Christianity: Luke 17: 26 "And as it was in the days of Noe (Noah), so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Luke 17:27 "They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all." Luke 17:28 "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;" Luke 17:29 "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." Luke 17:30 "Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."

BAHA'I FAITH: "Humanity is submerged in materialism; occupied in everything save the mention of God; speaking of everything save the heavenly kingdom; hearing of everything save the call of God. As far as knowledge of things divine were interred in the earth, going more and more into the blind darkness, completely buried from the knowledge of things above."

(Abdu'l-Baha, Divine Philosophy, p. 56)

BAHA'I FAITH: "Observe how darkness has overspread the world. In every corner of the earth there is strife, discord and warfare of some kind. Mankind is submerged in the sea of materialism and occupied with the affairs of this world. They have no thought beyond earthly possessions and manifest no desire save the passions of this

fleeting, mortal existence. Their utmost purpose is the attainment of material livelihood, physical comforts and worldly enjoyments such as constitute the happiness of the animal world rather than the world of man."

(Abdu'l-Baha, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 335)

Zion.

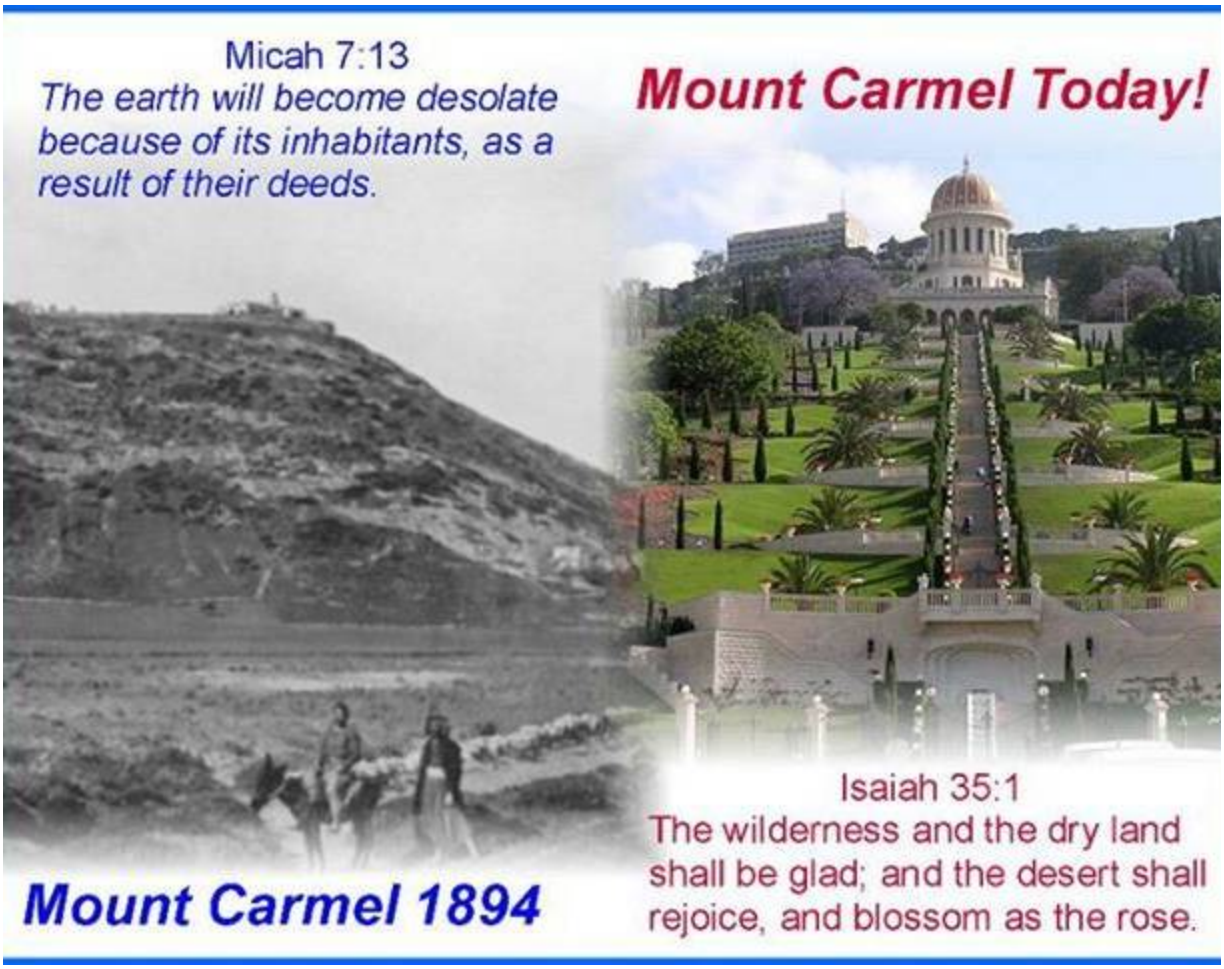
446. Zion. Judaism: Isaiah 51:3 "For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody." When Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned in the prison city of Akká in Israel (Zion), Israel was a most desolate place covered with barren landscape with large swampy areas infested with mosquitoes. It was a dry desert like place with disease infested areas and wilderness abounding. When Bahá'u'lláh arrived the climate in Israel began to change to a more hospitable environment. It began to rain more and things began to grow. This was gradual of course, but it was known to the Bahá'ís that Bahá'u'lláh had a great love for growing things, so many pilgrims when they would come to the Holy Land to visit they would bring plants and trees to plant to give Baha'u'llah a view of nature. This eventually, through careful planting, led to areas of wilderness to become Eden like and areas of the desert to bloom like a garden. The nation of Israel today is a lush green landscape, a true land of milk and honey, and the Bahá'í gardens at Bahji and Mount Carmel are so beautiful that some people in Israel claim they are the eighth wonder of the world:








X


Micah 7:13
The earth will become desolate because of its inhabitants, as a result of their deeds.
Mount Carmel Today!
Mount Carmel 1894
Isaiah 35:1
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.




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